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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the U.S. Attorney's Office take action on the Inspector General's report citing possible violations in the award of a sole-source contract to IPS to manage the CNMI's ARRA funds?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Debt Talks

House Speaker John Boehner postpones a vote on a debt-ceiling measure.

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Street Market

The sights, sounds, smell, and taste of the Thursday night street market are compelling.

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US Senate confirms Manglona

» First Northern Marianas judge to sit on federal District Court

The U.S. Senate confirmed yesterday the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, currently a judge in the CNMI Superior Court, to serve as a district judge in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Manglona, 44, will be the first person from the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed to any federal court. She is also the first woman to be named as the permanent judge for the federal District Court in the Northern Marianas.

The Senate confirmed Manglona by unanimous voice vote at about 12:46pm. She is expected to receive her commission shortly and will fill a judgeship vacant since Feb. 28, 2010, when U.S. District Judge Alex Munson retired.

Her confirmation was immediately met with accolades.

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MILESTONES

Ramona Manglona's confirmation as district judge in the U.S. District Court for the NMI makes her:

- First person from the CNMI to be appointed to any federal court
- First woman to be named permanent judge for the district court in the NMI
- 14th Asian-American and Pacific Islander district court judge
- 8th Asian-American and Pacific Islander judge to be confirmed under Obama

Humbled by her confirmation

» Manglona: It is a great honor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona said yesterday that she is much humbled after having been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Manglona gave thanks to President Barack Obama, who nominated her to the U.S. Senate, to the U.S. Senate itself, and the chairman of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and committee members.

See HUMBLED on Page 4

Hemodialysis patients doubled in 10 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Between 2001 through 2011, the number of hemodialysis patients in the Commonwealth have doubled, proof that more and more islanders are contracting chronic diseases that lead to kidney failures.

RELATED NEWS

➤ Dialysis unit gets a new reverse osmosis system. PAGE 2

Based on the latest records of the Commonwealth Health Center, from just 80 hemobialysis patients 10 years ago,

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MILITARY DAY MARK RABAGO

U.S. Army PFC Prescott Cabrera heats a packet of MREs (military ready to eat) as participants of the Army Enrichment Camp's Military Day look on yesterday at Marianas Trekking in Marpi. A total of 97 children—75 military youth and 21 camp regulars—took part in yesterday's activity.

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Local

Dialysis unit gets a new reverse osmosis system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Mar Cor Purification representative Curtis Short checks the newly installed reverse osmosis system yesterday while Chris Missinne, also a representative of the company, and CHC biomedical services supervisor Tony Mafnas look on.

A new reverse osmosis system at the Commonwealth Health Center's new hemodialysis center is now undergoing tests and will soon pave the way for the official opening of the long delayed project.

Its manufacturer, Mar Cor Purification, began the installation last Saturday and finished it in four days.

In a visit to the new facility yesterday, the company's representatives, Chris Missinne and Curtis Short, were seen testing the equipment. It will undergo a month of test runs. The unit cost $141,413.

Missinne said the new equipment will provide a safe, reliable system that is designed to produce water that will ensure safe, high quality care for hemodialysis patients.

He said they also did a re-piping of the area using a state-of-the-art piping system that will last 20 years.

According to CHC biomedical services supervisor Tony Mafnas, the next step is to collect samples from each of the center's dialysis stations every week for a month to test them for compliance with Food and Drugs Administration standards. Once FDA certifies the system, the hospital will then inform Medicare of the facility's readiness for a resurvey and request for approval to operate.

Saipan Tribune learned that the water treatment system, including the reverse osmosis system, must meet FDA requirements in order to participate in the Medicare program.

The new dialysis center has a total of 38 stations. It is projected to treat 27 patients per shift each day.

Hemodialysis unit manager Karlo Reyes explained yesterday that the old dialysis unit at the hospital is already Medicare-certified. However, this certification cannot be transferred to the new dialysis facility.

Reyes is hopeful that after the test-run period, Medicare will immediately do a resurvey and approve the center's full operation.

He said that Medicare has always checked for updates on the new dialysis center and he's optimistic that the facility will be allowed to be fully operational before the end of the year. With the improvements made to the long-delayed project and compliance with all the standards, Reyes is optimistic that Medicare will give a favorable decision soon.

The unit manager said they are ready to open the facility with 28 nurses, one dietician, one social worker, and a part-time nephrologist. These personnel will work on three shifts everyday from 5am through 9pm.

Reyes said that a dialysis patient receives an average of four to five hours of treatment for every shift. Once fully operational, all dialysis patients being treated at the old facility will be transferred to the new center.

The dialysis center was initiated in 2004 during the Babauta administration. Its opening has been delayed for years due to the lack of Medicare certification.

Tebuteb: I'm still a Republican

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Despite some misgivings over the July 8 GOP membership meeting and general elections, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said he is "still a Republican."

Responding to an invitation to join the local Democratic Party, the Precinct 3 lawmaker said he "appreciates the gesture but I am still with the GOP."

Responding to former GOP president Juan I. Tenorio's letter to the editor to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Tebuteb said he "appreciates his candid response to the letter I sent him. He still has my utmost respect."

He also called on the new leadership of the CNMI Republican Party to include him and other elected GOP members in their future meetings because they too have the right to provide inputs on the party's future plans.

"I understand that they continue to meet as a central GOP executive committee but I will kind of appreciate it if they will include sitting elected members to the meetings. I have not yet received an invitation," he said.

Tebuteb also clarified that he didn't directly say that he didn't recognize former governor Juan N. Babauta's election as new GOP president.

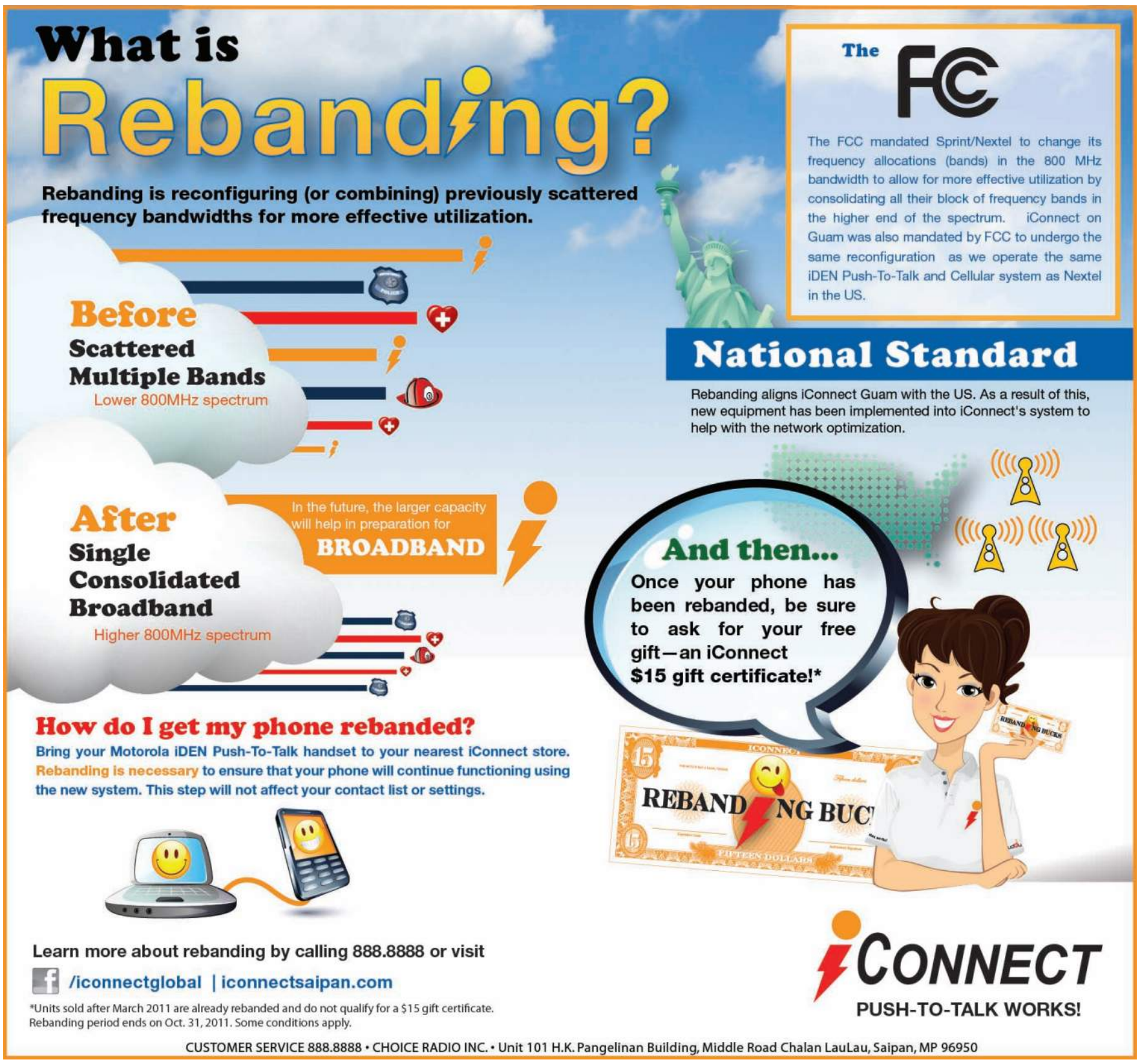
"In the letter I didn't directly say I didn't recognize him. I said I still recognize Juan I. Tenorio."

Tebuteb last week wrote to former Tenorio, saying he does not recognize Babauta as the newly elected CNMI GOP president. He also labeled as "unofficial" the general membership meeting and subsequent GOP election held on July 8 at the Garapan Central Park.

Tenorio, however, distanced himself from the issue and told *Saipan Tribune* to tell Tebuteb that he already quit politics.

He later sent a letter to editor to the *Saipan Tribune* where he specifically addressed issues brought to the fore by Tebuteb.

Former lieutenant governor and CNMI Democratic Party acting chair Jesus Borja, meanwhile, said Tuesday that disgruntled GOP members are welcome to join the party.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After
Single
Consolidated
Broadband
Higher 800MHz spectrum
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Senate to look into IG report on sole-source ARRA contract

» Committee has 60 days to submit report

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Senate is finally looking into the Inspector General report on the privatization of the management of CNMI ARRA funds after Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan) instructed one its committees to investigate the matter.

In a memorandum dated yesterday, Manglona referred the IG report to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations for review.

"This is a very important issue and I ask your committee to give its full attention to this issue," Manglona told committee chair Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) in the memo.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Manglona said he has given Cruz and his committee 30 days to submit a recommendation on the IG report.

"The committee is planning to hold a hearing on Wednesday next week," he said, adding that he expects Cruz to call the personalities involved in the controversial $392,404 sole-source contract to former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's firm, Integrated Professional Services.

As this developed, *The New York Times* ran an article on Monday that reported on the IG report.

Written by Emily Yehle of Greenwire, "Islands deal with former Commerce secretary's company violated rules" says: "Government officials in the Northern Mariana Islands violated ethics rules after they handed an almost $400,000 contract to the former Commerce secretary's new company, according to Department of Interior's inspector general."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, meanwhile, told Pacific News Center that some $64 million in ARRA funds that have yet to be issued to the Commonwealth could be in jeopardy after the IG's report that IPS' sole-source contract may have violated CNMI procurement rules and ethics regulations.

Sablan said he'll fight to prevent ARRA funds from being "cut off."

"The people of the Commonwealth didn't break the law, so they shouldn't be punished. If anything, that contract, that money that has been paid out, should be returned to the Commonwealth government," Sablan was quoted.

As of March 2011, the report said the CNMI has received $51 million out of the $115 million in ARRA funds awarded to the islands.

The report also quoted Sablan as saying that he plans to talk to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco and find out why her office is declining to prosecute the case.

"I haven't had a chance to speak to the United States Attorney, to Ms. Limtiaco. I will try to speak to her. I will also try to speak to some people here, within the Department of Justice to find out what's the reason for declining. She must have had her reasons. But, at the moment, I don't know what her reasons are."

The IG report, which was made available online Saturday in the Interior's website, said, among other things, that the CNMI government's sole-source contract with Ada's IPS "is null and void if the procurement processes or execution fails to comply with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations."

It said the evidence suggests that the Fitial administration's contract to IPS violated multiple CNMI ethics rules, including provisions against post-employment restrictions, use of office, staff, or employees of public office, restraint on use of public position to obtain private benefit, and negotiating for nongovernment employment.

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OPA audit identifies $2.6M in 'recoverable' funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Office of Public Auditor has found approximately $2.628 million in government monies expended improperly by agencies and that can be recovered by the cash-strapped government if actions will be taken by the Office of the Attorney General.

The collectibles were as of Dec. 31, 2010, according to the OPA's audit report on CNMI agencies released yesterday.

"As of Dec. 31, 2010, recommendations in seven audit reports were referred to the [OAG] for legal action to recover monies improperly expended. On May 17, 2011 OPA requested an update on these referrals. The [OAG] did not respond to this request or provide OPA an update on these referrals. As such, the status of these referrals remains unchanged," states the report.

Of the potentially recoverable funds, OPA said that $4,982 can be recovered from a former Rota Health Center director as reimbursement for the cost of a washing machine taken from RHC funds for the period December 1993 to March 1996.

Another $75,000 could be recovered from a former Finance secretary who misused the money during fiscal years 1995 to 1997.

Some $2,200 is also recoverable from a former Washington Representative as balance of a loan receivable made to a CNMI constituent. Legal action is also needed to recover an overpayment of $543,375 from a consultant of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission on grounds of unjust enrichment, conversion, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty and $195,971 from three other individuals for breach of fiduciary trust.

OPA also disclosed that the CNMI government has $1.315 million in overpayments of professional services contracts.

At the Department of Public Works, $100,000 can be recovered as improper payments made to a surveying contractor in 1997. Another $392,178 can be recovered from the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission as payment for improper travels made in fiscal years 1996 to 2001.

OPA also indicated that there is a potential recovery of $3.6 million that hinges on agencies' actions.

Recommendations in eight audit reports identified potential recoveries of the amount due to unpaid rentals of land leases, uncollected labor processing fees, overpayments in professional services contracts and retirement benefits, and improper expenditures of public funds.

"Of the $4.7 million identified as potentially recoverable, $1.054 million has been partially recovered, leaving a balance of $3.671 million still recoverable as of Dec. 31, 2010," OPA said.

PATIENTS

From Page 1

the number now stands at 159—and these are just the documented ones.

Karlo Reyes, unit manager of the CHC hemodialysis unit, said yesterday that these documented patients are being treated either at the hospital or at a private clinic on island.

Saipan has two hemodialysis facilities: one at the Commonwealth Health Center and the privately-run St. Jude Renal Care Facility at the Saipan Health Clinic.

Of the 159 dialysis patients in the Commonwealth, Reyes disclosed that 107 are being treated at CHC while St. Jude accommodates the remaining 52 patients. CHC, as a public health center, accommodates patients with or without insurance.

Reyes believes that more and more people in the community have chronic kidney diseases that are still undiagnosed, based on the emergency cases being brought to the hospital. He said an undiagnosed kidney failure usually leads to emergency treatment.

"I can't say if the documented figure is alarming but I do believe that we still have a significant number of individuals in our community who have chronic kidney conditions but are still undiagnosed to date. Based on the 10-year period of documented patients, however, we've seen a continuous increase in the number. The figure doubled from 2001 to 2011," said Reyes.

Because of the limited resources and equipment at the hospital's old dialysis center, the opening of the St. Jude facility and its expansion has helped accommodate the increasing number of patients who need dialysis treatment. *Saipan Tribune* learned that CHC's old dialysis center could only accommodate 19 patients per shift.

Reyes said the expected opening of the new hemodialysis center will allow them to increase that number to 27 patients per shift every day.

Hemodialysis is a method for removing waste products such as creatinine and urea, as well as free water, from the blood when the kidneys fail. Hemodialysis is one of three renal replacement therapies, the other two being renal transplant and peritoneal dialysis. It can be an outpatient or inpatient therapy.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Staff of the Commonwealth Health Center's hemodialysis unit gather for a group photo during a visit to the facility yesterday. From left, Jeff Santos, Marissa Mafnas, unit manager Karlo Reyes, Jane Tupas, and social worker Lindsey Rice.

HUMBLED

From Page 1

"Dangkulo na si yuus ma'ase not only to the President, the U.S. senators, but also our local leaders who have been supportive throughout this whole process, including Congressman Kilili, Governor Fitial, the members of the Bar Association who have been involved in the vetting process and a lot of family members and friends," she said.

On being the first woman to be named permanent judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the first person born on Saipan to get that position, Manglona said: "It is a great honor."

She said she is grateful and believes everyone is grateful that Obama and the U.S. Senate have seen it fit to allow her to serve as a federal judge.

Manglona said she will soon be resigning as Superior Court judge—a position she has held since 2003.

She is currently serving her second six-year term, which was renewed in May 2009 after majority of voters retained her to the bench. She has four more years on her second term. A federal court judge has a 10-year term.

"Even though I tender my letter of resignation, the effective date will be contingent on when the President signs the commission that basically certifies that the constitutional process has been completed," Manglona explained.

She said there is no specific date yet as to her oath-taking as a federal judge considering that it will be contingent on her satisfying all those information that she will be forwarding to Washington D.C.

"After I satisfy all the requirements, the President can sign the commission, then I will be able to take the oath," she said.

Manglona said she can choose who will administer her oath. She thinks it would be an honor to have the chief judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Alex Kozinski.

If Kozinski will not be able to do so, Manglona said she would prefer to have the nearest federal judge, and that would be Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, the chief judge of the U.S. District Court of Guam.

Manglona encouraged more local people and those that have chosen the Commonwealth to be their home to pursue law "because it is a very noble profession."

"And for women who are maybe intimidated about the profession, I strongly encourage them to give it a try and give themselves the benefit of doubt that they can. If my progress so far can show something, I think it is doable. If I can do it, they can do it," she said.

SENATE

From Page 1

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, who recommended Manglona for the position to President Barack Obama in 2009, said that he was certain she would be a fine jurist. "[Manglona] is a person of impeccable character who will be as fair and impartial as a U.S. District Court judge, as she has proven herself to be as an associate judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court," Sablan said.

The CNMI delegate also described Manglona's confirmation as a milestone in the political development of the Northern Mariana Islands. "She exemplifies the degree to which the people of the Northern Marianas have risen to be self-governing and self-sufficient over the years since we chose to become part of the United States," Sablan said.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo also offered her congratulations: "I join Congressman Kilili Sablan, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the people of Guam in congratulating our neighbor Ramona Villagomez Manglona on her confirmation…Judge Manglona is a highly respected jurist who has been effective in her positions in the judiciary of the CNMI. I am confident that she will serve our nation with distinction and that she will continue to inspire young people through her public service."

The chairwoman of the Congressional Asian and Pacific Americans Caucus, Judy Chu (D-California) also offered her commendation. "I congratulate Judge Manglona… She has and will serve as an important role model, not only for women on the Mariana Islands, but also for Pacific Islanders everywhere."

Manglona will be the 14th Asian-American and Pacific Islander district court judge and the eighth AAPI judge to be confirmed under President Obama.

Manglona was appointed to CNMI Superior Court in 2003. Prior to coming onto the bench, she served as the islands' first female attorney general, winning confirmation from the CNMI Senate in November 2002.

A Saipan native, Manglona received her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1990, and her J.D. in 1996 from the University of New Mexico, School of Law, where she made the Dean's List and Honor Roll. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Virginia Sablan Onerheim and then for Presiding Judge Alexandro C. Castro at the CNMI Superior Court.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Mariana Islands is a territorial court established by Congress under authority of Article IV of the Constitution. Judges appointed to territorial courts serve a 10-year term and may be removed from office by the president. They receive a salary of $174,000.

The district court in CNMI is authorized one judgeship. The court reported 72 new cases filed in 2010.

Culmination of a lengthy process

Manglona's confirmation came to the Senate floor along with that of Paul Engelmayer, who will head the District Court in Manhattan. Both were recommended for confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 7. Paul Oetken, the third person who came before the Committee with Manglona and Engelmayer at a hearing on March 16, was confirmed last week.

Sablan said that his office has been in regular communication with both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell since the Judiciary Committee action to make sure that Manglona's confirmation came to the floor in a timely fashion.

"This has been a very orderly, sequential process with the Senate taking up one or two nominations each week," said Sablan. "Judge Manglona's nomination came to the floor this week as has been the expectation since May, right along with the others the Judiciary Committee recommended in April."

Once nominated by the President on Jan. 27 this year, Manglona has moved relatively quickly through the process. But the extensive vetting before her nomination by the White House and the Justice Department, looking into the background of the potential nominee and interviewing her friends, family, and associates, took over a year.

Even after the nomination the scrutiny continues. The Senate Judiciary Committee staff compiles information on a nominee's professional qualifications and fitness to serve based on a comprehensive questionnaire submitted by the nominee and on an evaluation by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary.

"I know that this have been an arduous process and a very long time coming for Judge Manglona and her family," Sablan said. "It took 14 months between the time I gave her name to the President and the time he sent her name to the Senate, then another six months to get to the Senate floor for a vote. Now that the confirmation is complete I am sure that she must feel quite relieved."

A new precedent

Sablan recommended Manglona to replace Judge Munson several months before Munson retired last year. Munson had served as federal judge for the Northern Mariana Islands District for two decades. Sablan recommended Manglona not only because she was a worthy candidate, but also, he said, because he felt that an important precedent had to be set.

"The White House usually expects that the respective senators will put forward the names of individuals to serve on federal courts in their states. The Northern Marianas doesn't have any senators, but we now have a delegate in Congress. I believe that the delegate should have the equivalent role that senators have in selecting who will serve on the federal court. I wanted to assert that role." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SINCE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION IN 2004:

SHEFA 'over-awarded' $787,000 to scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance administrator Henry Hofschneider disclosed yesterday that the program has awarded financial grants to students more than what the law appropriated.

Based on program records, the Legislature gave SHEFA a total of $17.4 million from fiscal years 2004 through 2010. However, awards disbursed to scholars in six years totaled about $18.2 million—a difference of over $780,000.

Hofschneider labeled the excess amount as "over-awards" to recipients.

"Based on the available records at SHEFA office, a total of $787,000 was over-awarded to scholars in six years. This only indicates that the program has provided awards more than the appropriation set [by the Legislature]," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the first two years of SHEFA's operation, it was only appropriated $1.2 million each fiscal year. The local law was amended in 2006, increasing its appropriation to $3 million each fiscal year. These monies were sourced from poker license fees and related government revenue.

Hofschneider, who took over as administrator last year, said there's a need to reconcile SHEFA records with that of the Finance Department's to have a better picture of how the program was implemented.

Because of declining poker revenues, he said there is a need to be strict with what is being appropriated for the program so it will be sustainable.

Last month, the SHEFA board approved—at Hofschneider's recommendation—a ceiling of $1.5 million disbursement for each academic year to ensure that the $3 million appropriation is equally awarded and disbursed to eligible scholars.

This came about after SHEFA awarded its scholars $2.2 million in the fall 2010 semester alone—more than half of the $3 million appropriated for the program. This resulted in having only about $800,000 left for spring 2010 recipients.

The reconciliation of records, according to Hofschneider, will aid the board make sound decisions for the future of the program.

He will recommend that for each fiscal year, any "unused funds" be carried over to the next academic year in order to either maintain or increase the number of scholars it serves.

SHEFA is a scholarship program that provides students financial assistance from poker fees. Its mission is to provide supplementary financial assistance, upon the availability of funds, to qualified residents of Saipan and the Northern Islands who are pursuing college education on Saipan or abroad. Recipients are expected to return to the island to work in the government or private sectors.

Judge urges FBI to prioritize testing of items in rape case vs Michael Jackson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has asked the FBI to prioritize the testing of some items related to the criminal case filed against Michael Anthony Jackson, a 32-year-old ex-convict who is charged with kidnapping and rape of a female minor.

"While the court realizes that the FBI laboratory has an overwhelming workload and numerous priorities from around the country and their gratuitous assistance to the CNMI is most appreciated, we cannot allow this case to remain in a state of limbo," said Wiseman in an order issued Monday.

The judge also expressed his appreciation for the services that the FBI has and continues to provide the CNMI.

The judge ordered the Office of the Attorney General to provide a copy of his order to officials of the FBI laboratory and other areas, informing them of his "respectful request" to try to prioritize the testing of evidence in this case or to inform the OAG when it may expect any results from the testing.

The OAG had charged Jackson with kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, and assault over the alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl on Saipan on Oct. 9, 2010.

During a status conference on July 20, assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu appeared for the government. Chief public defender Adam Hardwicke represented Jackson.

Wiseman tried to set the case for trial, but Hardwicke objected, arguing that there is potentially exculpatory evidence—evidence that could possibly exonerate Jackson—under the control of the government that has not yet been tested.

Mocanu disclosed that the FBI has several of these items for testing since October 2010.

In his order, Wiseman said that, as of this date, there is no indication that the items have been tested or, if they have, that any results are forthcoming. To date, Wiseman said, the only thing the government has received from the FBI are the results from the fingerprint analysis.

He said the other evidence not yet received consists of a rape kit and DNA samples collected from Jackson's vehicle.

Wiseman reset the status conference to Sept. 28, 2011, at 9am.

Police said the female victim was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Finasisu on her way to her residence at 1am on Oct. 9, 2010, when Jackson forced the girl into his car.

Jackson brought the girl to an open field south of the Saipan airport bunkers where he allegedly raped her inside his vehicle.

After the rape, Jackson also allegedly forced the minor to smoke "ice." The victim later managed to run away. Police arrested Jackson that night.

Jackson was convicted of burglary in 1998.

Northern Mariana Islands
Workers' Compensation Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the Workers' Compensation Commission will hold a Special Meeting July 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. WCC Lease
- B. Accounts' Receivable / Collections
- C. Proposed Write-off Policy
- D. Purchase of GHLI Automobile
- E. Government Self-Insurance

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Other Related Matters
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ Jerry P. Crisostomo
ACTING CHAIRMAN, WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Introducing the
HTC Wildfire
Multimedia
Photos-Music-Video
Android™ 2.1 (Éclair)
w/ HTC Sense UI
HTC Widgets
ONLY
$99*
htc
10:08 AM
FriendStream
What are you doing?
Jennifer I'm ok
56 mins ago
Joseph Really great place to eat, you should check it out! Grilling Over Wood as a Sweaty, Smoky Sport
Grilling over a wood fire is as much a sport as it is an
10:08 AM
Phone
THE UNLIMITED ANDROID PLAN
ONLY
$79
permonth
Unlimited Local Voice
Unlimtied Local SMS
Unlimited Android Data
ANDROID 500 PLAN
ONLY
$59
permonth
500 Local Voice Minutes
Unlimtied Local SMS
Unlimited Android Data
Social Networking
5 megapixel color camera
Bluetooth®
*Some conditions apply.
While supplies last.
The ULTIMATE ANDROID PLAN for $79 now available at IT&E!
*Some conditions apply • New Accounts Only • Must sign up for 2 Year agreement • Android 500 Plan or higher
*MORE Single Plans customer must sign up for Unlimited Android Data • While supplies last.
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

BARELY TWO MONTHS SINCE REGISTRATION BEGAN:

Dog registration yields $8.2K revenue for control program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Barely two months since the registration of dogs kicked off on island, a total of $8,200 in fees has already been collected by the Saipan Mayor's Office, according to a special adviser of Mayor Donald Flores.

Henry Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the amount is expected to increase in coming weeks because registration is still ongoing.

License fees for dogs vary depending on whether or not the dogs are neutered or not. These fees range from $6 per dog for a one-year license to $42 per dog for a five-year license.

Hofschneider said this revenue will be used to build a permanent animal shelter, possibly in Lower Base.

Flores formally implemented the long-delayed stray dog control program on June 6. As of early this month, the municipality has already registered approximately over a thousand pets.

License fees are paid by pet owners to the Finance Department, which deposits the money in the program's own account. It is not commingled with other funds and will be used primarily to run the dog control program.

Saipan Local Law 9-12 created the dog control program.

Based on a survey conducted by the Northern Marianas College-CREES program last year, Saipan has an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 stray animals wandering around villages and communities. The number continues to increase due to its uncontrolled population.

Hofschneider said that Flores is very pleased with the program's initial turnout and is optimistic that more and more pet owners will join the campaign to take responsibility for their animals.

The municipality reopened the registration and tagging on July 11 in Chalan Kanoa; it will run through Dec. 9. After that date, pet owners who wish to register their dogs will have to go to a designated place that the municipality will identify later.

Hart hopes to usher improved relationship with Legislature

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

By the look and sound of things, Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart is confident that the college will have an improved working relationship with the Legislature.

Along with other officials from NMC, Hart on Tuesday took part in what she hopes would become a quarterly meeting with both members of the House and Senate in Capitol Hill.

Hart said she is happy to receive assurances from lawmakers that the Legislature will respect NMC's autonomy.

"I'm hearing a strong sense of unity from the Legislature, understanding that, yes, the institution is autonomous. That, yes, if there are any bills or prior legislation that have been enacted, that maybe they now need to go back on and look at and they're willing to do that. That's the message I'm hearing today," she said during a break in Tuesday's meeting at the Senate chamber.

What's also important, Hart said, is that NMC in the future will be more proactive in making its sentiments known to the Legislature if there are proposed bills affecting its operations.

"We're looking at a much improved relationship. I know one of the things you'll be hearing this afternoon is that our board will have a stronger role in being able to look at legislation and taking a stance in supporting or not supporting or maybe having no opinion on different bills so that way we can help to educate the Legislature and whether or not some of these, in fact, are those that would really benefit the institution or could harm us," she said.

Hart also reiterated her desire to tap the local business sector to help NMC, adding that she hopes to extend the college's hand in partnership with local companies when she serves as the speaker at next week's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting.

She said in her past postings she was able to bring in educational programs to help students financially, among them are programs sponsored by John Deere, Caterpillar, and Chrysler.

"These are all programs that are literally 100 percent funded by the business sector," she said.

Hart added that it is symbiotically beneficial for both NMC and local businesses to forge a relationship because they "know in long run they will be the ones benefiting from our graduates."

Senate Education Committee chair Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), meanwhile, praised NMC, especially Hart's staff, for their impressive presentation Tuesday.

"Dr. Hart inherited a lot of very talented employees and they're very resourceful. They're very articulate in the areas of their expertise. I commend NMC for having the staff that are very articulate and very knowledgeable in the areas of concern and their field," he said.

Aside from the usual nursing and teaching degrees at the college, Reyes said he also hope the institution will produce business management graduates because "we need to have some business majors so they eventually become employers of all these people that get training."

He also wants NMC to recruit more foreign students. "This is an area that the college can actually play a role in bringing in revenues. Because bringing in foreign students is big business."

Reyes also wished Hart and the college luck as they move out of probation and toward reclaiming their full accreditation.

"It's going to take a little time because we see the potential in Dr. Hart to try and get us out of probation and eventually into full accreditation. These are steps that are in the right direction," he said.

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
4 Years (48 Months) to
5 Years (60 Months)

- Acts extremely aggressively
- Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes
- Refuses to respond to people in general, or responds only superficially
- Seems unhappy or sad much of the time
- Doesn't express a wide range of emotions
- Can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality
- Can't correctly give first and last name
- Doesn't talk about his/her daily activities and experiences
- Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon
- Cannot brush teeth efficiently
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the Special Education Program at
237-3029
for a FREE developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Big Steps for Little Feet

HANAMITSU HOTEL & SPA
Hanamitsu
Hotel & Spa
Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa with adjoined Nail salon welcome's guests with it's new and improved water system. PEOPLE are our inspiration and passion to deliver our personal service at all times to make you feel at home. Enjoy the night or the weekend and enjoy the great service where hospitality works.
Standard guestroom rate starts for as low as
$55.00/night plus 10% tax
1-Hour Local Massage - $25
Our location is in front of
ABC Store in Paseo De Marianas
For reservations and inquiry, please call:
Tel: 1-670-233-1818 or 1-670-483-7119
Fax: 1-670-233-1819
Email: hanamitsuhotel@gmail.com
www.saipanhanamitsu.com

CLASSES STARTING AUGUST 1ST 2011

BECOME A SKILLED WORKER,
GET YOUR TRADE ON!

ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A DESIRE TO LEARN!
NORTHERN MARIANAS TRADES INSTITUTE is inviting all interested students, regardless of age, education or ethnic background to attend a new student orientation:
JULY 28TH 2011 AT 1:30 PM
AT OUR CAMPUS AT LOWER BASE.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE
THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TRADE INSTITUTE
WHERE YOUR FUTURE BEGINS!

CALL OUR HELPFUL STAFF AT 235-6684 OR 322-6684 TODAY.
Paid for by a grant funded through the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

iConnect undergoes rebanding of frequency allocation

Within the next three months, iConnect will undertake a major network optimization scheme that will relocate iConnect's bandwidth from the current lower 800 MHz spectrum to a new and higher 800 MHz spectrum frequency.

iConnect's network rebanding is part of a mandate by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to Sprint Nextel in the U.S. to reconfigure its frequency allocation in the 800 MHz bandwidth to allow more effective utilization by consolidating all their block of frequency bands in the higher end of the spectrum.

The FCC also required iConnect in the CNMI and Guam to undergo the same reconfiguration since it operates the same iDEN Push-To-Talk and interconnect cellular system as that of Nextel in the U.S.

The CNMI and Guam are the last in the U.S. to undertake a nationwide effort which began in 2004, to reband its commercial radio and phone systems.

"Rebanding will allow iConnect to more effectively use the 800 MHz bandwidth and its network and system since all blocks of frequency bands will be consolidated in the higher end of the allocated spectrum. As an offshoot of this rebanding, the reconfigured bandwidth would allow for optimization of frequency usage and thus help iConnect provide improved PTT and cellular reception and service," said Matt Giger, iConnect's chief business development officer.

The rebanding process involves not only network upgrades through reconfiguration and replacement of antennas and transmitters but also involves the rebanding or the frequency reconfiguration of iConnect iDEN or Push-To-Talk handsets so they can continue to operate under iConnect's new reconfigured bandwidth. iConnect assures its subscribers that rebanding will not change nor affect any of their handsets' features and functionality, including their contact list and settings.

"Rebanding of iConnect iDEN handsets is necessary that's why we are encouraging our subscribers to visit our iConnect outlet on Saipan to get their phones rebanded. An iConnect representative will visit Tinian and Rota in August to reband phones. iConnect iDEN phones sold after March 2011 and some corporate account and consumer units have already been rebanded and thus are not required to be brought into iConnect for rebanding. All other iConnect iDEN Push-To-Talk units need to be turned in for rebanding before October 31, 2011," said Giger.

The rebanding of iConnect Push-To-Talk handsets will be at no cost to subscribers and qualified units will be entitled to "Rebanding Bucks" or certificates that can be used to redeem for select accessories from iConnect, Giger said.

For over a decade, iConnect has been the provider of instant connect Push-To-Talk, or PTT, digital cellular and text messaging on Guam and the CNMI. Aside from offering prepaid and postpaid PTT with interconnect cellular services based on Motorola's cutting edge iDEN technology on both the CNMI and Guam, iConnect also offers prepaid and postpaid GSM services in Guam.

To find out more information about rebanding, log on to iconnectsaipan.com or call 888-8888. ***(iConnect)***

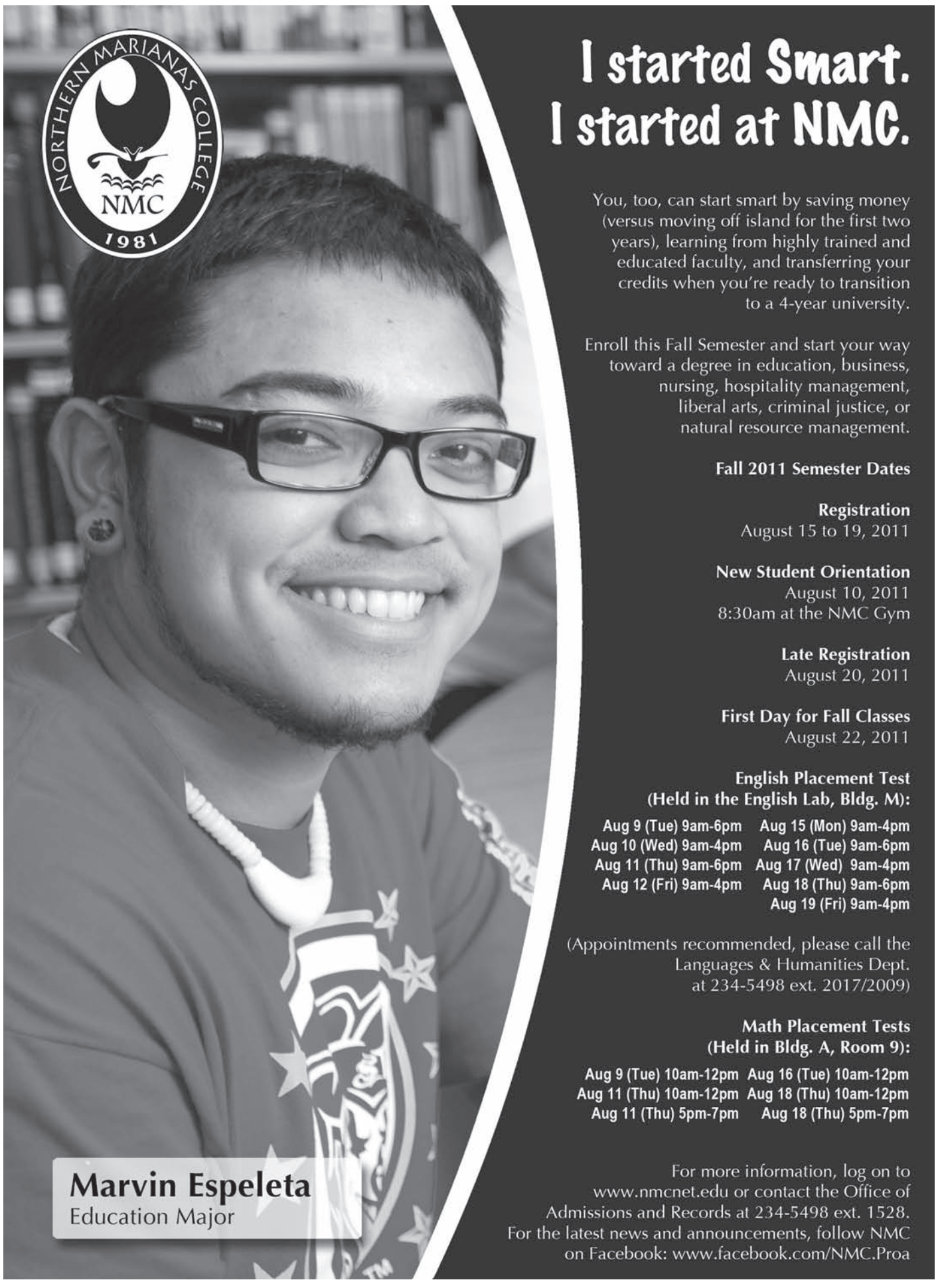
Guam gets $5.03M for infra projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, signed a provisional grant providing more than $5 million in Capital Improvement Project funding to the Government of Guam for fiscal year 2011.

The funds will be used to continue renovations at the Gregorio D. Perez Marina; replacing aged slips for recreational and commercial boats, improving the Mangilao Department of Public Health and Social Services facility; including the construction of an environmental health laboratory and training center, and expanding the Nieves M. Flores Library facility in Hagatña.

"I am pleased that the department continues to be able to support Guam with meaningful infrastructure projects which will improve educational, recreational, and medical services for the community. I am particularly excited to work with the Guam Public Library to improve their facility, increasing learning space for students and making the first meaningful expansion of the Hagatña public library in decades," said Babauta.

"We realize that in an environment of limited resources, infrastructure projects such as these and elsewhere, are important to island communities and would not be possible without local leadership and also the continuing support from Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and her colleagues in Congress." ***(DOI)***


NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
I started Smart.
I started at NMC.
You, too, can start smart by saving money (versus moving off island for the first two years), learning from highly trained and educated faculty, and transferring your credits when you're ready to transition to a 4-year university.
Enroll this Fall Semester and start your way toward a degree in education, business, nursing, hospitality management, liberal arts, criminal justice, or natural resource management.
Fall 2011 Semester Dates
Registration
August 15 to 19, 2011
New Student Orientation
August 10, 2011
8:30am at the NMC Gym
Late Registration
August 20, 2011
First Day for Fall Classes
August 22, 2011
English Placement Test
(Held in the English Lab, Bldg. M):
Aug 9 (Tue) 9am-6pm
Aug 10 (Wed) 9am-4pm
Aug 11 (Thu) 9am-6pm
Aug 12 (Fri) 9am-4pm
Aug 15 (Mon) 9am-4pm
Aug 16 (Tue) 9am-6pm
Aug 17 (Wed) 9am-4pm
Aug 18 (Thu) 9am-6pm
Aug 19 (Fri) 9am-4pm
(Appointments recommended, please call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 2017/2009)
Math Placement Tests
(Held in Bldg. A, Room 9):
Aug 9 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Aug 11 (Thu) 10am-12pm
Aug 11 (Thu) 5pm-7pm
Aug 16 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Aug 18 (Thu) 10am-12pm
Aug 18 (Thu) 5pm-7pm
For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528.
For the latest news and announcements, follow NMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
Marvin Espeleta
Education Major

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT CORP.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179
Plaintiff,	)	**SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
vs.	)	
ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNIEDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X,	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17th, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants in and to the property described as:

Lot No. 001 T 33, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00, the original of which was registered 23 JUL 70 as Document No. 100-A at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, August 12th , 2011, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., & Botones Ave., Garapan, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Second Amended Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**
   a. ***Reserve.*** The auction sale will be held with a reserve. The reserve price on the property offered for sale is **$12,000.**
   b. ***Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.*** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Amended Notice before sale before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.
   c. ***Bids.*** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered or mailed to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus Street, Botones Avenue, Garapan, P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
   d. ***Disputes.*** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Second Amended Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**
   a. ***Deposit.*** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the auction is closed. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within **three (3)** days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

8. **Certificate of Sale:** Once the sale is complete and the bid has been paid in full, a Report of Sale will be filed with the CNMI Superior Court. Once the court approves the Report of Sale, the person conducting the sale will be authorized to deliver a Certificate of Sale to the buyer of the real property in accordance with 2 CMC § 4537(f).

Dated this 17th day of June 2011.

/s/ By: Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. no. 323-2115

Lecture series with Carlos Madrid in Aug.

The public is invited to a presentation by Spanish historian and author Carlos Madrid, who will share some highlights related to the Council's Spanish documents project.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre.

During the colonial rule of the Mariana Islands from 1565 to 1898, Spanish officials regularly reported on the daily life on the islands, and many of these reports are currently stored at the National Archives of the Philippines in Manila.

A We the People grant awarded to the NMI Humanities Council funded the research, indexing, and digitization of over 30,000 pages of these documents. Madrid was the project director for this Council program.

He has researched and written extensively on Spanish rule in the Marianas, and his book, *Beyond Distances: Governance, Politics and Deportation in the Mariana Islands from 1870 to 1877*, can be purchased at the Council office.

For more information, call 235-4785 or visit the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

TICKET DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fly Guam helps the NMI Humanities Council celebrate its 20th anniversary by donating two round-trip tickets to Hong Kong. The donation was presented by Fly Guam marketing manager Kina Taitano, center right, on Tuesday. Accepting on behalf of the Council's board of directors are, from left, secretary/treasurer Joann T. Aquino, Susana B. Deleon Guerrero, chair Tracy M. Guerrero, vice chair Jerry Facey, and Denita K. Yangetmai. The tickets will be raffled at the Council's 20th Anniversary fundraiser at PIC on Aug. 12. Fundraiser tickets are available from Council board members and staff.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-093

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"MARIANA ISLANDS BLEACHING RESPONSE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY, GUALO RAI CENTER, SUTE 101 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., EXCEPT OF CNMI LEGAL HOLIDAYS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR, DEQ
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-111

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE II ENVIROMENTAL SITE ASSESSMET FOR SOIL & GROUNDWATER OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED BROWNFIELD SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME ON AUGUST 02, 2011** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM, (RM 205).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PRJECT MA BY FAXE DTO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR, DEQ
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, August 4th , 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of May 5, 2011 minutes
5. Adoption of July 7, 2011 minutes
6. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings
1. House Local Bill 17-26 – Section 2. A review of each rezoning proposal in Section 2 of the bill and staff's recommendation to the Board.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business
1. None

E. New Business
1. Status on text amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)

for LLC Enterprises

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Mr. Joseph M. Pangelinan requests to rezone lots # 008 H 03, 008 H 04, 008 H 05, and 008 H 06 from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial", to construct an apartment building. This area is located between Barbara and Carmen Avenues, just south of the Chalan Kanoa U.S. Post Office.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **Thursday, September 1, 2011**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 31, 2011. Please send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 28, 1999

DOLI bars entry of PROC nationals

Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark Zachares yesterday issued fresh instructions to halt the issuance of new entry permits to all nationals from mainland China, following refusal and delay by Beijing to accept returning workers from the Northern Marianas. In a memorandum addressed to all airlines, labor and immigration offices and ports of entry, the DOLI chief also canceled Authorizations to Board or ATBs to PROC nationals, which means that airlines are prohibited from admitting passengers from China to bring onto the island. The order applies to all new entry permits, including new workers, replacement workers, tourists and short-term business, 90-day business, long-term business, special industry, students and immediate relatives.

CPA to collect parking fees at Saipan Harbor on Oct. 1

Due to its limited manpower, the Port of Saipan may have to acquire an automated machine to assist this division of the Commonwealth Ports Authority in collecting parking fees beginning October 1, 1999. Port of Saipan General Manager Antonio B. Cabrera said he is looking at the cost effectiveness of implementing the collection of parking fee at the port. The Seaport Division may also have to take care of the passenger fee collection for those who will take the Tinian ferry. However, Cabrera said there is no definite date yet on when the passenger fee will be collected.

July 28, 2000

Outer Cove operator may go bankrupt

The Outer Cove Marina may eventually go bankrupt because of the failure of the CNMI government to comply with the agreement to ensure that commercial boat operators are paying their fees. Every month, the Marine Revitalization Corp. is losing $24,000, which covers interest payment alone for its huge loans from the bank and various companies. Total investment of MRC in the marina is $4.1 million. MRC, a non-profit corporation, entered into an agreement with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the U.S. National Parks Service to build and operate the marina where it was granted a 15-year lease on some 16,394 square meters of submerged land.

DPS seeks $3.6-M increase in FY 2001 budget

The Department of Public Safety has asked the House Ways and Means Committee for a $3.6 million increase in funding for fiscal year 2001 to cope with the expected increase in police and fire personnel as well as replace obsolete equipment. This brings to $17.6 million the budget needed by the department to run efficiently, according to DPS Commissioner Charles W. Ingram. So far, the Office of Management and Budget has only given DPS $14 million for FY 2001. In a letter to Rep. Antonio Camacho, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Ingram said the Commissioner's Office is seeking $50,000 funding which will be used specifically for the Criminal Intelligence Section.

July 28, 2004

Anti-counterfeiting bill is now a law

Law enforcers now have a stronger arm to run after businesses and persons engaged in counterfeiting and selling fake goods, with Gov. Juan N. Babauta signing into law yesterday a legislative bill that criminalizes such activities. Babauta said the law would help curb the proliferation of forgery and counterfeiting activities, which have created a negative impact on trade and commerce in the CNMI. The law also punishes those who knowingly transport counterfeit goods into, out of, or within the CNMI. Offered by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog, Senate Bill 14-32 is now Public Law 14-22, or the Private Labels Protection Act, which provides penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment for violators.

Adriano backs volcano early warning system plan

Senate President Joaquin Adriano on Monday expressed the leadership's support for an early warning system amid the existing threat of volcanoes in the CNMI, saying it would look into possibly tapping available funds to implement the plan. Adriano said the Senate would meet with the House of Representatives to pool efforts in finding ways to help fund the plan. Before the session begins today, Adriano said U.S. Geological Survey's James E. Quick would present to the senators the findings of a recent study on the CNMI's volcanoes. "We should support the administration in that early warning system plan," Adriano said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

CUC COMPUTER SYSTEM DOWN

ACCOUNT PAYMENTS ARE STILL DUE AND BEING PROCESSED

The billing and payment system used at CUC suffered a failure early Monday July 25. CUC expects that the system repair will not be completed until Friday July 29 at the earliest.

The cashier office in the Joeten Dandan location will be open normal business hours and payments are being accepted. Due to the system issues, manual receipts will be provided.

Customers are advised that due dates for payments will be strictly enforced and everyone is encouraged to pay their CUC bills when due to avoid disconnection.

The prepaid meter token system is not affected and is functioning normally.

Other than payment processing, most other customer service functions are limited at this time due to the unavailability of the customer information system. We apologize for any inconvenience and are working diligently to restore normal operations as soon as possible.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-044

LOAN SERVICING & RELATED COLLECTION ACTION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified collection agencies to provide loan servicing and related collection actions in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **July 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-044, Loan Servicing & Related Collection Action", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 9 ,2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **July 22, 2011** to Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email Charles_Warren@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply via email mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 011 L 01, containing an area of approximately 735,023 square meters, more or less, situated in Unai Dangkulu, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is Suwaso Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Chairman), and Phillip Mendiola-Long.

The President and Treasurer of the Corporation is Yusuke Fumoto. The Vice President is Vincent DLG. Torres. The Secretary is Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating and maintaining a golf course and cottage type resort and related facilities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 10, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerål siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 L 01, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 735,023 square meters, putlumenus mås, ni gaige gi Inai Dångkulu, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Suwaso Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Kabesiyu) yan si Phillip Mendiola-Long.

I Presidenti yan Treasurer gi Korporasion si Yusuke Fumoto. I sigundu Presidenti si Vincent DLG. Torres. I Sekritåriu si Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion yan maintaining golf course yan cottage type resort yan mana'achuli' na fasilidåt siha.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na ekstension atkilon na kontråta siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 10, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór bwe extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) llól Consttitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka re mwuschel rebwe ississilong yaar aghiyegh, aweewe, angiingil pomwo kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me bwal Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilonul falúw yeel nge ekke bwáárilo bwe public land Lot No. 011 L 01, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw eliigh me limwoow sangaras, reweigh me eluuw (735,023) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Unai Dangkulu, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge Suwaso Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Samwoolul), me Phillip Mendiola-Long.

President me Treasurer reel Corporation yeel nge Yusuke Fumoto. Vice President nge Vincent DLG. Torres. Secretary nge Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mr. Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe kke yáali bwuley reel mwóghutu me ayoora golf course me tapal cottage resort me akkáaw akkayúú.

Term-il abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental ghal term nge ebwe féér mereel percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties kkaal.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli wóól me ngáre mmwal Elúwel (August) 10, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Norway massacre underscores need for immigration debate

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Investigations in Norway have revealed some of the twisted motives of the man who carried out Oslo's bombing and shooting spree. Whatever mental process drove Anders Breivik's actions, there is no way to rationalize or explain this crazed rampage and the methodical way he ended 76 lives.

This act was, as Breivik's lawyer has quoted him as saying, atrocious. Doubly so, considering that most of his targets—youths and older members of Norway's ruling Labor Party—had no direct link to Breivik's purported motive, which was to halt what he termed the "Muslim domination" of Norway and western Europe.

Some analysts are tempted to put the Norway tragedy in the context of global terrorism or to suggest that Breivik drew his inspiration from Americans such as Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh or Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, whom Breivik quotes in a lengthy manifesto. Breivik's obsession with Muslim immigration suggests this tragedy was distinctly European and bears minimal links to U.S. events.

Breivik's extremist views reflect a disturbing undercurrent across Europe related to the cultural divide between the subcontinent's historically white, Christian majority and its growing population of Muslim immigrants. Tensions are boosting the popularity of white nationalist movements and extremist political parties.

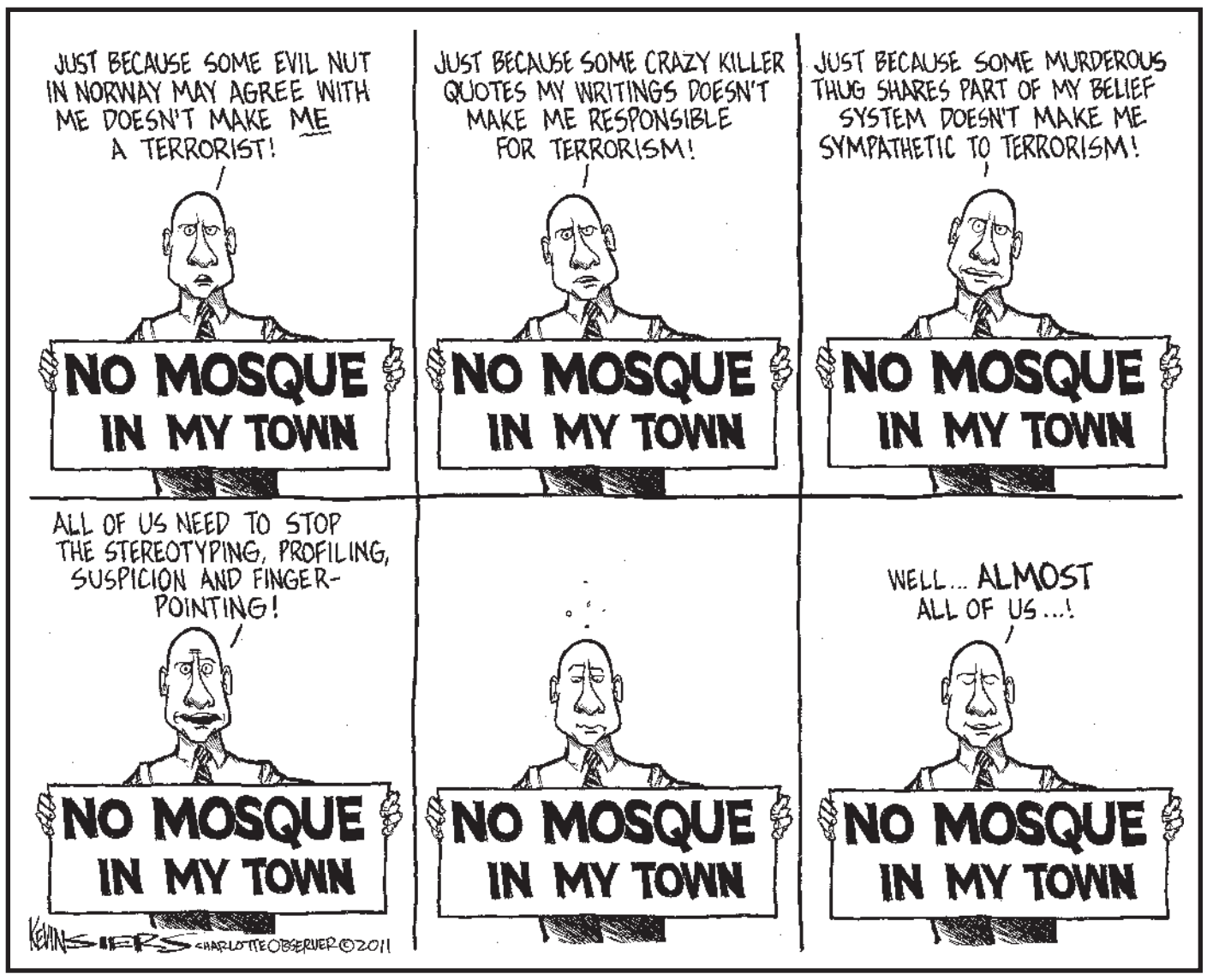
For years, European leaders have sidestepped this controversy by speaking of the immigration trend in the most politically correct terms possible. They urged Europeans to embrace multiculturalism because the unspeakable alternative, protectionism and nationalism, undermined efforts to unify Europe and invoked memories of the past century's horrific world wars.

In the process, however, Europe failed to have the frank conversation its people needed about the consequences of open borders and the resulting flood of people from widely divergent cultures. Large immigrant ghettos formed around most major European cities, minimizing opportunities for assimilation and fueling an us-versus-them mentality.

Clearly, many Europeans feel overwhelmed, and leaders increasingly are stating the obvious to their people. "This (multicultural) approach has failed, utterly failed," German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated in an October speech. The French and British prime ministers have echoed those sentiments.

No culture gladly embraces a tidal wave of immigrants. No one likes being told that if you don't embrace foreign newcomers, you must be a bigot. The immigration debate is a valid one for Europe—and the United States—to have, and leaders must encourage a more open discussion about ways of moderating the flow and coping with existing cultural divides. Solutions are complicated, as Americans are painfully aware.

It would be naive to suggest that a more open debate would have averted this massacre; crazed gunmen tend not to be swayed by the voice of reason. But avoiding a painful truth is far more likely to make tensions worse than to make them go away.


JUST BECAUSE SOME EVIL NUT IN NORWAY MAY AGREE WITH ME DOESN'T MAKE ME A TERRORIST!
JUST BECAUSE SOME CRAZY KILLER QUOTES MY WRITINGS DOESN'T MAKE ME RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORISM!
JUST BECAUSE SOME MURDEROUS THUG SHARES PART OF MY BELIEF SYSTEM DOESN'T MAKE ME SYMPATHETIC TO TERRORISM!
NO MOSQUE IN MY TOWN
ALL OF US NEED TO STOP THE STEREOTYPING, PROFILING, SUSPICION AND FINGER-POINTING!
WELL... ALMOST ALL OF US...!
KEVIN SIERS ©CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2011

The world's biggest problem? Too many people

By MARY ELLEN HARTE and ANNE EHRLICH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Think back on what you talked about with friends and family at your last gathering. The latest game of your favorite team? "American Idol"? An addictive hobby? The new movie blockbuster? In a serious moment, maybe job prospects, Afghanistan, the economic mess? We live in an information-drenched environment, one in which sports and favorite programs are just a click away. And the ease with which we can do this allows us to focus on mostly comforting subjects that divert our attention from increasingly real, long-term problems.

Notice that we didn't mention climate change above, or the exploding population/consumption levels that are triggering it—the two major factors threatening humanity's future. Sure, if you're not too far from the Western wildfires or Midwestern floodplains, the conversation might have turned to the crazy weather that is finally forcing some media to actually talk about climate change in the context of daily events.

But population? Get out. Way too inconvenient a truth. Take National Public Radio, for example. Of NPR's sparse record of population pieces, just one or two actually address unsustainable population growth. But as the political right whittles away at family planning clinics across the nation, the latest NPR series, "The Baby Project," devotes a plethora of articles to pregnancy, with the most serious subjects the problems some women have conceiving and birthing. If there is even a hint of too many babies, it is well hidden. This, even though a 2009 NPR story on U.S. pregnancies reported that half—yes, half—of all U.S. pregnancies are unintended. That's a lot of unintended consumers adding to our future climate change.

And that's what the right calls the "liberal" side of the mass media. The politically conservative U.S. mass media cover unsustainable population levels even less.

That pretty much reflects the appalling state of U.S. public education today on population. The U.S. approach to population issues across all levels of government, in terms of such things as education, attacks on family planning and tax deductions for children, is an exercise in thoughtlessness. The ramifications, however, are far more insidious and brutal. Women are culturally conditioned daily to welcome the idea of having children—plural, not one or none. How to support those children economically is not discussed. Indeed, our abysmal lack of adolescent sex educational programs ensures there will be plenty of young women who secure their destinies, and those of their babies, to brutal poverty and shortened lives through unwanted pregnancies and lack of choice. The latest available statistics from the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan tell the story: 1 in 5 American children lived in poverty in 2008; 1 in 3 if they were black or Latino.

Sure, there's much talk and concern that birthrates are down and will result in not enough workers to support the elderly. But this argument is overblown; after all, a 70-year-old can be more economically productive than a 7-year-old. And a large, pre-working population inflicts costs on a society. Furthermore, the birthrates in developing nations remain high, and the consequences affect us all.

Globally, the effects of overpopulation play a part in practically every daily report of mass human calamity, but the word "population" is rarely mentioned. Wildfires threaten ever more people because expanding populations are moving nearer and into forests. Floods inundate more homes as populations expand into floodplains. Such extreme events are stoked by climate change, fueled by increasing carbon emissions from an expanding global population.

Overpopulation is also fueling desertification and further deforestation around the world. We can dream of drastically decreasing overconsumption by the wealthy, but even realistic potential decreases are voided by sheer human numbers in all countries, rich and poor. Our unsustainable population levels are depleting resources and denying a decent future to our descendants.

What to do? Stop the denial. Perpetual growth is the creed of a cancer cell, not a sustainable human society.

Promote and support family planning education at the family and community levels as a cheap way to reduce poverty and severe climate change. Support organizations that are trying to get contraceptives to the 200 million women in the world who lack and want them, and help them obtain equal rights, education and job opportunities. Access to contraceptives and reproductive freedom are rights, not luxuries, that ultimately benefit all of humanity. Vote for leaders who vigorously promote those humane solutions. And demand that media start educating the public every day on the role played by the unsustainable human numbers behind environmental degradation and human calamities—and start covering the solutions. The public needs a constant message: "It's time to stop growing and become sustainable."

We can do many things to solve environmental, economic and social problems, but each is a lost cause if we cannot bring our populations down to sustainable levels.

Mary Ellen Harte is co-author of Cool the Earth, Save the Economy. *Anne Ehrlich is a senior research scientist at Stanford University. John Harte and Paul Ehrlich contributed to this piece. All are biologists involved in the study of climate change and sustainability. They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Become the instrument of change

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

Living on Saipan has been a dream for me and my family. What started out as a possible two-year contract with the college has extended to 14 years. During those years, starting in 1997, we have seen many changes that have taken a toll on the individuals, businesses, and other organizations. We are currently in the midst of a transition that will make or break this place.

This wasn't unforeseen; in fact, it was predicted by numerous other writers in the paper and individuals who are concerned about the future of the CNMI. One of the difficult things for me to witness is the disregard of undeveloped potential, and how many of our resources are wasted. Tony Pellegrino has written about the "acres of diamonds" that lie under our feet, but people ignore them to search elsewhere for solutions.

A couple of months ago, I promoted a concept called the Biz-Growth Challenge that had the goal of gathering the various resources to assist business owners to be as successful as possible. Many agencies and individuals supported me in this effort, but for whatever reason, there was a lack of interest on the part of those we were trying to assist.

Let me step back and share some of my history and why I know there is huge potential, but one must be willing to start digging underneath their feet to discover the diamonds they are standing on. My first business was an advertising agency that I started while I was in graduate school in 1982. One of my clients was a small exercise equipment manufacturer called Weslo, and I worked closely with one of the owners, Gary Stevenson, to develop marketing materials to promote their fitness equipment.

I eventually graduated with a master's degree and joined the Air Force to fly as a navigator on the KC-135 aircraft, and Weslo went on to acquire the rights to name brand companies in the fitness industry such as ProForm, Gold's Gym, and NordicTrack, and become a billion-dollar corporation under the name ICON Health & Fitness.

In the ensuing years, my experience with Weslo and their ultimate success caused me to pursue the answer to this question: *"Why do some businesses experience spectacular success and create an ideal lifestyle for their owners, while the majority of business owners seem to create a "job" for themselves that makes it more difficult to live their ideal lifestyle?"*

In pursuit to answer that question, I earned a second master's degree in management, and spent countless hours and thousands of dollars devoted toward learning the business principles and strategies from the books, tapes, and seminars of individuals who are considered the best in their field. I learned and applied effective business marketing and management concepts that could produce dramatic results over time, and free business owners to either pursue more opportunities or create a more balanced lifestyle as their business continued to grow.

In addition, I was told that the Air Force spent over $600,000 training me to create a flight plan and successfully navigate a multi-million dollar aircraft to complete its mission to get from point A to point B. Because of my previous business background and work with clients, I could see a lot of similarities in what I was doing as a navigator and what it takes to develop an effective strategy for a company to take their business as high as they want to go with it.

But here's the rub, they must be willing to get on the runway and give it a full-throttle effort to take their business off the ground. If they don't believe they can take off, they won't even try. My biggest concern is that many business owners have given up and are thinking about their exit strategy (how they can get their business off the runway) instead of their takeoff strategy.

Yes, it has become extremely difficult for some to operate a business and turn a profit, but there are still many opportunities for those who are willing to try. Once an individual gives up, there is a 90 percent chance of failure. However, if a business owner maintains an open mind to examine the possibilities, and then gives it a full-throttle effort to tackle their biggest challenges and opportunities then they have a 90-percent chance of success.

Just like in my old navigation days, it requires you to know your destination, then create a plan, identify the needed resources, and then keep the image of your ultimate outcome constantly before you as you make the effort to accomplish critical goals that will allow you to achieve the vision you have for your business and personal life. Don't remain stuck on the runway of life, hoping that the weather changes. Become the instrument of change.

Hypocrisy rears its ugly head again

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

This past week we have heard arguments for and against H.R. 1466, which seeks to resolve the status of certain persons legally residing in the CNMI under the immigration laws of the United States. I am not going to discuss the pros and cons of the issue. That is being left up to the U.S. Congress to decide, but I will discuss the hypocrisy that we have been living under.

So that we all understand the same meaning of the word "hypocrisy," here is its definition: to pretend to believe what one does not truly believe. It is a pretense of having a virtuous character, or principles that one does not truly possess.

Having resided in the CNMI since 1984, I have seen and wrestled with the cloak of hypocrisy that many of us have been wearing for many years. But now the cloak is starting to show holes in it. We pretend we don't need nonresident workers and at the same time we do nothing to train ourselves to be the replacements.

Subconsciously many of us fear nonresident workers—we fear that they have a better work ethic, are better educated and more skillful than us. We fear that they will replace us. And as this fear grows deeper we create artificial barriers to make life harder for them.

The great British critic William Hazlitt wrote: "If you put a chain around the neck of another person, the other end fastens itself around your own. …A hypocrite despises those whom he deceives, but has no respect for himself."

Unless we come to understand what we are doing to ourselves, how can we grow into a happy society? The chain eventually becomes tighter and tighter until we strangle ourselves.

The saddest part of this situation is that our beautiful islands have become ripped apart because of our hypocritical attitude toward nonresident workers. If we were to accept the truth, we would admit that we brought nonresident workers here not to work with us, but to work for us!

We didn't bring them to supplement the insufficient number of resident workers. Frankly speaking, we brought them here because many of us feel superior over them and are too lazy and not willing to do the dirty work required. If we are going to work, we prefer the clean, plush managerial jobs regardless of whether or not we have the qualifications. If this is not true, then why are so many thousands of local people on food stamps?

Had we been sincere from the beginning, we would have trained our own labor force first. After that, realizing we had insufficient resident workers, we could have supplemented with nonresident workers to fill in. But that has not been the case. We deceived ourselves and now the hypocrisy is blowing up in our face.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is begging for students young and old, male and female, to learn a trade and become the local labor force. But the applications are few. Why? All that is required to learn a trade is the will to do so.

Another example, a large construction company for over a year has been building a road on the backside of the island starting from San Vicente. Has anyone of us seen a local worker there? Not even as a sign holder for traffic? Have any of us applied for a job there? Do you see my point?

Do we recognize the following words: *"I salute and honor the flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, as a symbol of unity, love, and integrity among the cultures and people for which it stands, with equal opportunity for all, founded upon divine principals of democracy and the spiritual guidance of Almighty God."*

This is our "Salute to the Flag of the CNMI." Let the meanings of these precious words sink in. Are we living the meanings of these words?

We prefer to ignore the ethic of reciprocity or "Golden Rule," which is a fundamental moral principal that simply means "treat others as you would like to be treated." It is the most essential basis for the modern concept of human rights or legal rights. The concept of "The Golden Rule" is also found in the scriptures of nearly every religion.

Let us recall the words of Abraham Lincoln spoken on Oct. 18, 1854, when he was debating the issue of slavery in the Union: "I hate it [slavery] because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world; enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites; causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principals of civil liberty—criticizing the Declaration of Independence, and insisting that there is no right principal of action but self-interest."

On another occasion President Lincoln said: "Our progress of degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we began by declaring that "all men are created equal." We now practically read it: "all men are created equal except Negroes."

In our case in the CNMI let's substitute "Negroes" with "nonresident workers" and the real meaning hits us.

It is not too late to correct the hypocrisy in our situation. But imposing more hypocritical laws is not the way to do it. Accept the people who have built our great islands over the years. They deserve far better treatment than we are giving them. At least respect the families with children born in the CNMI and let them live peacefully and productively here. We will not lose our identity if we plan and act accordingly.

The United States of which we are a member is a mixture of cultures and peoples. We too are a melting pot of races. Our island should be a symbol of what different nationalities can accomplish by working together. We need each other. Let us stop the hypocrisy before it tears us further apart.

The Golden Rule and human dignity must always come first. When a nation forgets this and treats its people whoever they may be as tools to cast off when not needed, it is doomed. We have already suffered greatly from much negative publicity about how garment workers were treated on Saipan in the past. Are we to continue that period of shame?

We have so much to learn from each other and our different cultures. Think of how poor and dull our lives would be if we weren't able to enjoy the cultures of the Japanese, the Chinese, the Philippines, the American, and all the others we have here. It is because we can enjoy these our lives are much richer.

Why are we so afraid of losing our culture when many of us do not really practice or even understand it? What happens to our culture with the local people who escape to the United States to live? We could continue on to doom's end, but we will not settle anything unless we put ourselves into their shoes and feel the emotions that they feel.

We create the future from our proper attitudes! As the late Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." When we are strong mentally we feel confident and proud. Let's end the hypocrisy now! Make the field fair for everybody—nonresident and resident. We will be a happier nation for it. Have a great day!

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼76
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

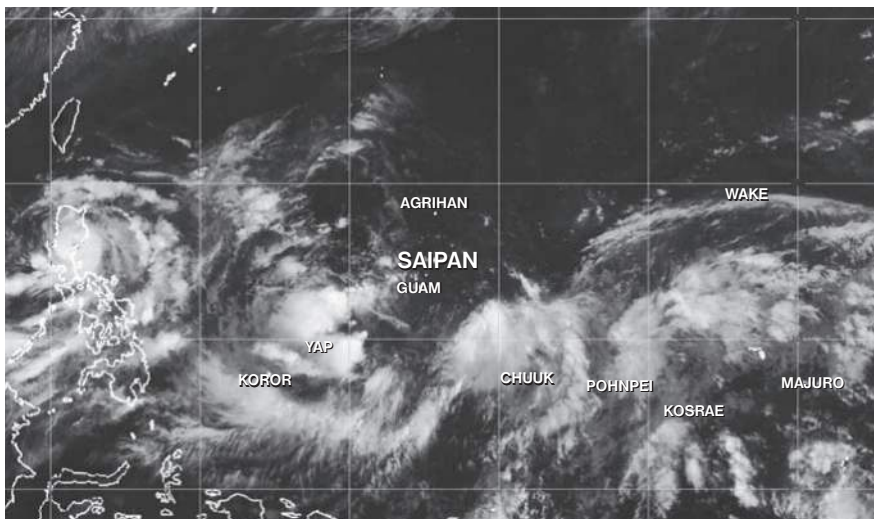
Auckland	Sunny	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲80	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼74
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲81	▼65
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼75
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼79

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 11W is centered near 10N141E moving west-northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Yap and within an area bounded by a line from 16N136E to 13N143E to 6N143E to 9N133E back to 16N136E and within 80 miles of a line from 7N131E to 3N144E to 6N146E. For more information on Tropical Depression 11W, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 12N130E through Tropical Depression 11W to end north of Chuuk at 12N153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the trough axis and near Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 14N152E to 11N156E to 2N156E to 8N146E back to 14N152E. Converging winds west of the cnmi are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 21N131E to 17N135E. A surface trough extends northeastward from near Pohnpei at 7N159E to 17N172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 200 miles of the trough. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers south of Kosrae south of a line from 4N159E to 3N175E and northeast of Majuro east of a line from 7N172E to 17N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:12 AM	4:33 PM
Friday	4:09 AM	5:25 PM
Saturday	5:08 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	7:03 PM
Monday	7:06 AM	7:49 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Deal or no deal? US downgrade looking likely

NEW YORK (AP)—Could the U.S. lose its top credit rating even if a deal is reached to raise the debt limit? Market analysts and investors increasingly say yes. The outcome won't be quite as scary as a default, but financial markets would still take a blow. Mortgage rates could rise. States and cities, already strapped, could find it more difficult to borrow. Stocks could lose their gains for the year.

"At this point, we're more concerned about the risk of a downgrade than a default," said Terry Belton, global head of fixed income strategy at JPMorgan Chase. In a conference call with reporters Tuesday, Belton said the loss of the country's AAA rating may rattle markets, but it's "better than missing an interest payment."

Even with a deadline to raise the U.S. debt limit less than a week away, many investors still believe Washington will pull off a last-minute deal to avoid a catastrophic default. Washington has until Aug. 2 to raise the country's $14.3 trillion borrowing limit or risk missing a payment on its debt. President Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans have failed to reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling and pass a larger budget-cutting package. Politicians have tied raising the debt limit and spending cuts together.

But at least one credit rating agency has already made it clear that unless that agreement includes at least $4 trillion in budget cuts over the next decade, the country's AAA rating could be lost. Right now, the proposals under discussion cut around $2 trillion or less.

Standard & Poor's warned earlier this month that there was a 50-50 chance of a downgrade, if Congress and President Obama failed to find a "credible solution to the rising U.S. government debt burden." S&P said it may cut the U.S. rating to AA within 90 days. Passing a $4 trillion agreement could prevent a downgrade, S&P said.

The other chief rating agency, Moody's Investors Service, said the U.S. government would likely keep its top rating if it avoids a default.

Spokesmen from both Moody's and S&P said they wouldn't comment beyond their recent reports.

JPMorgan's Belton said clients have started asking how markets will respond if the U.S. loses its AAA rating. A drop to AA will mean permanently higher borrowing costs for the U.S. government, he said. And because government lending rates act as a floor for other lending rates, mortgages, student loans, corporate debt and other types of loans will become more expensive.

Widest wealth gap between US whites and minorities

WASHINGTON (AP)—The wealth gaps between whites and minorities have grown to their widest levels since the U.S. government began tabulating them a quarter-century ago. The recession and uneven recovery have erased decades of minority gains, leaving whites on average with 20 times the net worth of blacks and 18 times that of Hispanics, according to an analysis of new Census data.

The analysis shows the racial and ethnic impact of the recent economic meltdown, which ravaged housing values and sent unemployment soaring. It also offers the most direct government evidence yet of the stark wealth divide, a disparity between predominantly younger minorities whose main asset is their home and older whites who are more likely to have 401(k) retirement accounts or other stock holdings.

"I am afraid that this pushes us back to what the Kerner Commission characterized as 'two societies, separate and unequal,'" said Roderick Harrison, a former chief of racial statistics at the Census Bureau, referring to the 1960s presidential commission that examined U.S. race relations. "The great difference is that the second society has now become both black and Hispanic."

The median wealth of white U.S. households in 2009 was $113,149, compared to $6,325 for Hispanics and $5,677 for blacks, according to the analysis released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center. Those ratios, roughly 20 to 1 for blacks and 18 to 1 for Hispanics, far exceed the low mark of 7 to 1 for both groups reached in 1995, when the nation's economic expansion lifted many low-income groups to the middle class.

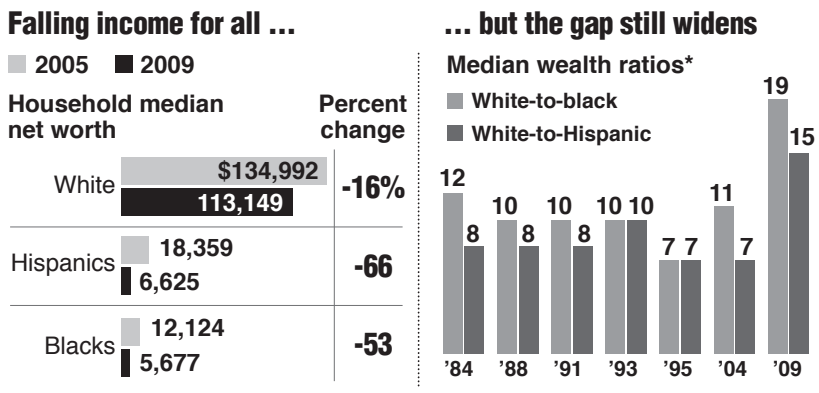
The white-black wealth gap also is the widest since census began tracking such data in 1984, when the ratio was roughly 12 to 1.

"What's pushing the wealth of whites is the rebound in the stock market and corporate savings, while younger Hispanics and African-Americans who bought homes in the last decade, because that was the American dream, are seeing big declines," said Timothy Smeeding, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor who specializes in income inequality.

Stock holdings play an important role in the economic well-being of white households. Stock funds, IRA and Keogh accounts as well as 401(k) and savings accounts were responsible for 28 percent of whites' net worth, compared with 19 percent for blacks and 15 percent for Hispanics.

Widening gap

The wealth gap in the U.S. between whites and minorities has grown to a record high after the recession erased decades of minority gains. Whites now have roughly 20 times the net worth of blacks.



*Because of a change in how ethnicities are classified by the U.S. Census Bureau, this chart adjusts 2009 wealth ratios so that they compare with older data in a consistent manner. Previously, the census allowed people of Hispanic origin to be counted within white or black categories.

Source: Pew Research Center Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT

McDonald's: Apple slices in every Happy Meal

A healthier Happy Meal

McDonald's has announced modifications to the Happy Meal designed to make the children's staple healthier. Here are some of the changes:

Item	Fat (g)		Sodium (mg)		Calories	
Change from old to new Happy Meal	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
4-piece Chicken McNuggets *Less salt*	12	**12**	400*	**360**	190	**190**
French fries *Size drops from 2.4 ounces to 1.1 (68 g to 31)*	11	**5**	160	**70**	230	**100**
Apple Dippers/slices *Size drops from 3.1 ounces to 1.2 (88 g to 34); caramel sauce eliminated*	0.5	**0**	35	**0**	100	**15**
Chocolate milk *Switch from low-fat to fat-free*	3	**0**	150	**170**	170	**130**

*Old sodium content listed; sodium content for all McNuggets was recently lowered to 350 milligrams

Source: McDonald's Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2011 MCT

By CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—An apple a day may keep the doctor away. But when you put it in a Happy Meal, it might help keep regulators at bay too. McDonald's on Tuesday said that it would add apple slices and reduce the portion of French fries in its children's meal boxes beginning this fall, effectively taking away consumers' current choice between either having apples with caramel dip or fries as a Happy Meal side.

The move by McDonald's, which has become a leader in moving from just burgers and fries to more nutritious fare like oatmeal and salads, comes as fast food chains face intense scrutiny from health officials and others who blame the industry for childhood obesity and other health-related problems. Some municipalities, including San Francisco, have even banned fast food restaurants from selling kids' meals with toys.

Critics wasted no time complaining that McDonald's changes don't go far enough. Kelle Louaillier, executive director of a group called Corporate Accountability International, said McDonald's is just trying to get ahead of impending regulations that will restrict the marketing of junk food to children and require restaurants to post nutrition information on menus, among other changes.

"McDonald's is taking steps in the right direction," says Louaillier, whose group has pushed for McDonald's to retire Ronald McDonald. "But we should be careful in heaping praise on corporations for simply reducing the scope of the problem they continue to create."

Cindy Goody, McDonald's senior director of nutrition, said that the new directives are "absolutely not" related to new regulations. Rather, she said, they're a response to customers asking for healthier choices.

But apparently, customers aren't making those choices in practice. Indeed, only about 11 percent of customers were ordering apples with their Happy Meals, even though 88 percent were aware they had the option, the restaurant said.

McDonald's says the change will reduce calories in its "most popular" Happy Meals by as much as 20 percent. The new apple slices will not be served with caramel dipping sauce.

Currently, the lightest Happy Meal is the four-piece chicken nugget meal served with apples and apple juice. It has 380 calories and 12 grams of fat. The Happy Meal with the most fat and calories is a cheeseburger served with fries and 1 percent chocolate milk. It weighs in at 700 calories and 27 grams of fat.

"McDonald's agrees with leading food and nutrition experts that making incremental lifestyle modifications with food consumption may lead to improvements in an individual's well-being," Goody said, adding that McDonald's didn't eliminate fries from Happy Meals because "all foods fit when consumed in moderation."

Adding a half portion of apples and fries is more likely to change customers' eating habits than simply offering apples as an alternative, said Jonathan Marek, a senior vice president at Applied Predictive Technologies. It should also be a good public relations move, he said, and more importantly, could help drive sales.

"The key is, will this get parents to go to McDonald's one more time each month than they would have otherwise?" said Marek, whose company helps restaurants forecast whether new programs will drive sales. He was not involved in the McDonald's program.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,501.30	1,331.94	2,839.96
-91.50	0.0	-2.84
-0.73%	0.0%	-0.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9047	Hong Kong Dollar	7.789	Philippine Peso	42.1525
British Pound	0.6086	Indian Rupee	43.89	Singapore Dollar	1.2002
Canadian Dollar	0.9429	Indonesian Rupiah	8483.75	South Korean Won	1049.97
Chinese Yuan	6.4398	Japanese Yen	77.766	Swiss Franc	0.8003
Euro	0.6885	New Zealand Dollar	1.142	Thailand Baht	29.695

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury chosen in trial for polygamist sect leader

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Ten women and two men were selected to sit on the jury in the sexual assault trial of polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs late Tuesday, after more than 100 potential jurors were excused for admitting they'd previously heard enough about his background to no longer presume him innocent. An initial pool of 207 was on-hand for the second day of jury selection in the case of the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism that believes polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. The 55-year-old Jeffs faces two counts of sexual assault of a child. If convicted, the maximum sentence for both is 119 years to life in prison. He will have a separate trial for bigamy in October.

Ga. mom is spared prison in son's jaywalking death

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP)—A woman who was arrested after her 4-year-old son was struck and killed by a van as they were jaywalking across a busy street was spared a prison sentence Tuesday following an outcry over her prosecution. Raquel Nelson, 30, was convicted by a jury earlier this month of vehicular homicide and other charges for not using a crosswalk and could have gotten three years behind bars—far more than the six months the hit-and-run driver served. Instead, without explanation, Judge Kathryn Tanksley gave the suburban Atlanta mother a year's probation, ordered 40 hours of community service, and took the unusual step of offering her a new trial. Nelson's lawyer said late Tuesday that she will take the judge up on the offer. A crowd of supporters broke out in applause.

FAA shutdown portends protracted fight in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers dug in Tuesday for what is shaping up to be a protracted fight over legislation necessary to end a partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration even as the economic and social consequences of the shutdown widened. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said he was unaware of any negotiations to end the legislative stalemate between the House and Senate that permitted the FAA's operating authority to expire at midnight on Friday. The administration hopes to persuade House Republicans to reach a compromise by publicizing the airport projects that have been halted and workers that have been laid off in their districts due to the shutdown, he told The Association Press in an interview. Thus far, there's been no movement, but he remains hopeful, LaHood said.

Calif. man attempts self-surgery with butter knife

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California man stuck a butter knife into his belly in a failed bid at self-surgery to remove a painful hernia, police said Tuesday. The wife of the 63-year-old Glendale man called 911 on Sunday night and told the emergency operator her husband was using a knife to remove a protruding hernia, Sgt. Tom Lorenz said. "She said he had impaled himself with a knife," Lorenz said. A hernia occurs when all or part of an organ or fatty tissue squeezes through a hole or a weak spot in a surrounding muscle or connective tissue. While the man said he was trying to remove a hernia, hernias are normally repaired by doctors in a hospital or medical setting involving some type of procedure to push the organ back in.

Boehner delays vote on his debt-ceiling measure

By CHARLES BABINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, at podium, accompanied by members of the House Republican leadership, speaks during a news conference at The Republican National Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 26, 2011. From left are, House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of Calif, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., Boehner, and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Va.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stung by revelations that his plan would cut spending less than advertised, House Speaker John Boehner on Tuesday postponed a vote on a debt-ceiling measure that was already running into opposition from tea party conservatives. The move came just a week before an Aug. 2 deadline for staving off the potential financial chaos of the nation's first-ever default.

With time running short, the speaker promised to quickly rewrite his debt-ceiling legislation after budget officials said it would cut spending by less than $1 trillion over the coming decade instead of the promised $1.2 trillion. The vote originally scheduled for Wednesday is now set for Thursday. That may give Boehner more time to hunt for votes, but it gives Congress and the White House even less time for maneuvering.

Meanwhile, public head-butting between Democratic President Barack Obama and the Republicans showed no sign of easing. The White House declared Obama would veto the Boehner bill, even if it somehow got through the House and the Democratic-controlled Senate.

For all that, it was the tea party-backed members of Boehner's own party who continued to vex him and heavily influence the debt and deficit negotiating terms—not to mention his chances of holding on to the speakership.

Their adamant opposition to any tax increases forced Boehner to back away from a "grand bargain" with Obama that might have made dramatic cuts in government spending. Yet when Boehner turned this week to a more modest cost-cutting plan, with no tax increases, many conservatives balked again. They said the proposal lacked the more potent tools they seek, such as a constitutional mandate for balanced budgets.

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, chairman of a large group of conservative Republicans, sent a tremor through the Capitol Tuesday when he said he doubted Boehner had enough support to pass his plan. The Boehner bill would provide an immediate debt ceiling increase but would require further action before the 2012 elections.

Obama strongly opposes that last requirement, arguing that it would reopen the delicate and crucial debt discussions to unending political pressure during next year's campaigns.

The president supports a separate bill, pushed by Majority Leader Harry Reid in the Democratic-controlled Senate, that would raise the debt ceiling enough to tide the government over through next year—and the elections.

Democrat Rep. David Wu to resign amid allegations

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic Rep. David Wu of Oregon announced Tuesday that he will resign amid the political fallout from an 18-year-old woman's allegations of an unwanted sexual encounter with him.

Wu had already said that he would not seek re-election, but he had come under increasing pressure to step down. Shortly after the allegations broke, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi requested a House Ethics Committee investigation of his conduct.

"The well-being of my children must come before anything else," Wu said in a statement. "With great sadness, I therefore intend to resign effective upon the resolution of the debt-ceiling crisis. This is the right decision for my family, the institution of the House and my colleagues."

Wu

Wu is the second House Democrat in the last six weeks to be forced to resign following allegations of sexual misconduct. Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York resigned after sending lewd photos of himself through Twitter. Wu faced allegations in his 2004 campaign that he had sexually assaulted a former girlfriend when they were students at Stanford University in the 1970s

Wu, a Yale-educated lawyer, was elected to Congress in 1998 as the first Chinese-American to serve in the House. He's maintained a centrist voting record but has been a leading voice on human rights abuses in China. He angered the high-tech firms in his district when he voted against normalizing trade relations with China.

Wu's hometown newspaper, the Oregonian, reported on Friday night that a California woman had called Wu's office in Portland and reported an unwanted sexual encounter with him around Thanksgiving. The paper also reported that Wu told senior aides the sexual encounter was consensual.

The newspaper said the woman decided not to press charges because there were no witnesses and it would have been her word against Wu's.

Wu has consistently won re-election with ease, but he was already facing the prospects of a difficult campaign even before the latest scandal broke. In January seven staffers resigned because of behavior that included sending a photo of himself in a tiger costume to a staff member and an angry public speech. Wu attributed those to a period of mental health challenges that began in 2008 as marital issues led to a separation from his wife.

Police say Freestyle Olympic skier kills self in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Olympic silver medalist Jeret "Speedy" Peterson was found dead in a remote canyon in Utah in what police are calling a suicide. One of the world's most risk-taking and innovative freestyle skiers, the creator of the one-of-a-kind "Hurricane" called 911 before shooting himself, police said. The 29-year-old had been cited for drunken driving Friday in Hailey, Idaho and had pleaded not guilty.

Officers found Peterson late Monday night between Salt Lake City and Park City in Lambs Canyon. Police said a suicide note was found near Peterson's car; they declined to reveal what it said.

"Regardless of the amazing stuff he did skiing, it was the stuff he did for other people that was incredible to me," said Peterson's longtime coach and friend, Matt Christensen. "A lot of people saw his story and said he must be a wild jackass and a cowboy. He was just the opposite."

He was one of the most colorful of athletes, and he wore his heart on his sleeve—never more than on Feb. 25, 2010, when he walked off the mountain with tears streaming down his face after taking the Olympic silver medal.

"I know that a lot of people go through a lot of things in their life, and I just want them to realize they can overcome anything," Peterson said that night. "There's light at the end of the tunnel and mine was silver and I love it."

Peterson

It was a poignant chapter to a career that, until then, had been filled with success on the smaller stages of his fringe sport but defined in the mainstream by his moment at the Turin Olympics where, after finishing seventh, he was sent home early after a minor scuffle with a buddy in the street.

Over the next months and years, he began filling in the details of a life story replete with incredible highlights and crushing disappointments.

While in Italy, he was still reeling from the suicide of a friend, who shot himself in front of Peterson only months before.

Peterson also had problems with alcohol and depression and admitted he had his own thoughts of suicide, all stemming from a childhood in which he was sexually abused and lost his 5-year-old sister to a drunken driver.

He picked up his nickname as a young boy because the big helmet he wore reminded his coaches of Speed Racer of cartoon fame.

But as his career progressed, he became better known for his signature jump, the "Hurricane"- five twists packed into three somersaults as he vaulted off the snowy ramp and flew 50 feet in the air.

Asia

South Korea landslide leaves 12 dead, 2 missing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Heavy rain sent a landslide barreling into a resort in a northern South Korean town Wednesday, leaving 12 people dead and two others missing, officials said.

Eight of those killed in the early morning landslide were college students who had been doing volunteer work, said Byun In-soo of the town's fire station. They were staying in a resort cabin in Chuncheon, about 68 miles (110 kilometers) northeast of Seoul, when the mud and debris engulfed them.

South Korea has been pummeled with strong rain this week, and more than 10 inches (250 millimeters) have fallen on Chuncheon in the last two days.

About 15 inches (400 millimeters) of rain fell in Seoul in just 17 hours starting Tuesday afternoon. Weather officials said another 10 inches could fall through Friday in northern South Korea, including Seoul, parts of which were flooded from the rains.

In Chuncheon, about 500 rescuers searched for two students who were missing after the landslide. Twenty-four people were injured and several buildings destroyed.

Among the other dead were a married couple and a man who wasn't yet identified, said Lee Juhee of the Chuncheon fire station.

Fast-moving muddy water filled streets in Seoul on Wednesday, with people scrambling to the roofs of their partially submerged cars. Water filled some subway stations and spewed from sewers. About 800 houses flooded, according to a city disaster official who declined to be named because of office policy. There were no casualties or deaths reported. The official said 23 roads were closed in the city.

Local TV showed officials rescuing hikers stranded on mountainsides. Another landslide took place at a mountain in southern Seoul, swamping a road near a neighborhood. No injuries were immediately reported.

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency issued a traffic emergency, mobilizing more police to deal with the problems caused by the heavy rain.

20 dead, 9 missing in slow-moving Philippine storm

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least 20 people have been killed and nine others are missing in floods and landslides unleashed by a slow-moving storm in the northeastern Philippines.

Civil Defense Administrator Benito Ramos said Wednesday that more than 640,000 people have been affected by Tropical Storm Nock-ten. Most of them are in Albay province, which has been inundated by heavy rains since Monday.

Forecasters say the storm made landfall on Aurora province Wednesday with maximum winds of 59 miles (95 kilometers) per hour and gusts of up to 75 mph (120 kph).

Nock-ten, a Laotian word for bird, is the 10th of about 21 typhoons and storms expected to lash the Philippines this year.

GOT MILK? AP

South Korean dairy farmers pour milk over their heads as others burn a traditional coffin, symbolizing South Korean government and milk processing company during a rally demanding increase of milk price near the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Thousands of dairy farmers opposed South Korean government signing FTA, free trade agreement, with various countries including the European Union and the U.S.

China rescues 89 trafficked children, nabs 369 suspects

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities have rescued 89 trafficked children and arrested 369 suspects after uncovering two trafficking gangs.

A report by the People's Daily posted on the Ministry of Public Security's website Wednesday says one operation was carried out on July 20 in 14 provinces.

It says it involved 2,600 officers and the youngest child rescued was 10 days old and the oldest 4 years.

The other operation was carried out on July 15. A separate People's Daily report says it resulted in the rescue of eight infants aged from 10 days to 7 months. Authorities detained 39 people. At least four were Vietnamese.

China's thriving black market in children endures despite harsh penalties, including death. Many babies are stolen but some are sold by their parents.

North Korea demanding for peace treaty with US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea is calling for a peace treaty with the United States as one of its senior diplomats visits New York to try to restart six-nation nuclear disarmament talks.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Wednesday that a peace treaty officially ending the Korean War could go a long way toward resolving a deadlock over Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Wednesday is the 58th anniversary of the armistice agreement that ended the fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea and China had been fighting against South Korea, the United States and U.N. forces.

Pyongyang has long called for a peace treaty with Washington. But its latest push comes as Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan is in New York.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Video shows rare Sumatra tiger dying in boar trap

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A video released by Greenpeace shows an endangered Sumatran tiger in Indonesia dying a slow agonizing death seven days after being ensnared in a wild boar trap. The environmental group said Tuesday the video was taken while a team from a local conservation agency in Riau province was trying to rescue the 18-month-old tiger on July 1, a week after it was trapped. Greenpeace says rescuers tranquilized the tiger in the hope of saving it but it died hours later. The footage shows the big cat struggling in vain to release its blackened paw from the rope traps. Sumatran tigers are the world's most critically endangered tiger subspecies. Their numbers dwindled to about 400 from about 1,000 in the 1970s due to destruction of forests and poaching.

American surfer missing in waters off Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A helicopter, fishing boats and divers scoured waters off western Indonesia on Tuesday in search of an American surfer who disappeared after coming off a powerful 10-foot (3-meter) wave. Daniel Bobis, 32, a math teacher and coach at Long Beach High School in New York, apparently hit another surfer's board on Sunday morning after emerging from the barrel of the wave. His wife, Rachel, said his board washed ashore soon after. She initially thought he would pop up down the coast and make his way back to their holiday bungalow. But by Monday afternoon, she'd all but given up hope of finding him alive.

Mumbai probe focuses on local Indian terror group

NEW DELHI (AP)—The prime suspect in the deadly bomb attack in Mumbai—the Indian Mujahedeen—has re-emerged three years after authorities believed they virtually wiped out the terror group in a crackdown that left many of its leaders dead, in jail or hiding abroad. The return of the shadowy extremist network, which Indian officials have linked to Pakistani extremists, could herald a new wave of terror attacks across the country after three years of relative calm and threaten the recently renewed peace process with Islamabad. The July 13 rush hour attacks in three busy Mumbai neighborhoods killed 20 people and rekindled memories of 2008, when deadly explosions across the country struck fear in Indians.

Thai graft complaint names 3 ex-Cabinet ministers

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's anti-corruption body has filed complaints against three former Cabinet ministers and an ex-governor of Bangkok that allege wrongdoing in a contract to buy fire trucks and boats for the Thai capital. Allegations about the contract signed in 2004 are not new. Thailand's attorney general office had dropped the case for lack of evidence, but the National Anti-Corruption Commission can file complaints directly to the Supreme Court. The case it filed Monday accuses the four officials and the former head of Bangkok's fire department of abuse of authority, price collusion and corruption over the contract. The Supreme Court is supposed to rule next month on whether to accept the case and proceed to trial. The three former Cabinet officials signed documents that let the contract with an Austrian company go forward, and the abuse of authority charge alleges they breached regulations in doing so. Ex-Bangkok Gov. Apirak Kosiyodhin signed a letter of credit for the deal.

Wild elephants attack Nepal refugee camp; 2 dead

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Wild elephants have attacked a refugee camp in southeastern Nepal, killing two elderly men and damaging several huts. Gehanath Bhandari, the chief government administrator in Jhapa district, says two elephants entered the U.N.-run camp for Bhutanese refugees Wednesday morning and trampled the two victims. There were no other casualties. Floods during monsoon season usually drive the elephants from neighboring India into Nepal, where they destroy farms and occasionally attack humans. Bhandari says some of the refugees were chasing the elephants away from corn fields when the animals turned toward the camp and attacked. Thousands of Bhutanese refugees have been living in camps in Nepal since the 1990s, when they were forced to leave their homeland.

World

Norway police slammed for slow response to rampage

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSLO, Norway (AP)—When Anders Behring Breivik launched his assault on the youth campers of Utoya Island, he expected Norway's special forces to swoop down and stop him at any minute.

Instead, Delta Force police officers made the 25-mile journey by car—they have no helicopter—then had to be rescued by a civilian craft when their boat broke down as it tried to navigate a one-minute hop to the island.

It took police more than 90 minutes to reach the gunman, who by then had mortally wounded 68 people. Breivik immediately dropped his guns and surrendered, having exceeded his wildest murderous expectations.

As Oslo's police force sounds an increasingly defensive note, international experts said Tuesday that Norway's government and security forces must learn stark lessons from a massacre made worse by a lackadaisical approach to planning for terror.

"Children were being slaughtered for an hour and a half and the police should have stopped it much sooner," said Mads Andenas, a law professor at the University of Oslo whose niece was on the island and survived by hiding in the bushes. One of his students was killed.

"Even taking all the extenuating circumstances into account, it is unforgivable," he said.

These include the fact that Breivik preceded his one-man assault on the island with a car bomb in the heart of Oslo's government center. Authorities were focused on helping survivors from that blast as the first frantic calls came in from campers hiding from the gunman on Utoya, northwest of Oslo.

Survivors said they struggled to get their panicked pleas heard because operators on emergency lines were rejecting calls not connected to the Oslo bomb. When police finally realized a gunman was shooting teens and 20-somethings attending a youth retreat on the island, Breivik had already been hunting them down for half an hour.

In a final act of bungling, police on Monday revised the island death toll down to 68, after initially miscounting the corpses at 86.

Breivik's lawyer, Geir Lippestad, said Tuesday his client was surprised he even made it onto the island without being stopped by police, never mind that he was left to fire his assault rifle and handgun for so long.

The island's lone part-time security guard was among the first people he killed.

Police spokesman Johan Fredriksen rebuffed criticism Tuesday of the planning and equipment failures, calling such comments "unworthy."

"We can take a lot, we're professional, but we are also human beings," he said.

International experts said Norway must take a hard look at a response system apparently premised on the assumption that the country didn't face a credible risk of terrorist attack, much less a back-to-back bombing and gun rampage.

That could be difficult in a country renowned for a culture of openness that has led to jaw-dropping security lapses in the past.

Norway's most infamous crimes before Friday involved the 1994 and 2004 thefts of artworks by its best-known painter, Edvard Munch. In the first theft, the robbers left their ladder propped up against an unlocked National Gallery window—and replaced Munch's "The Scream" with a mocking note: "Thanks for the poor security."

Fernando Reinares, former senior anti-terrorism adviser to the Spanish government, said Friday's attacks point to "an astonishing failure in police intelligence." He said a competent anti-terrorist agency would have identified Breivik before he struck because of his purchases of bomb-making ingredients and specialist weaponry.

"Norway is behind other Western European countries in adapting internal security structures and procedures to face terrorist challenges," Reinares said. "But there was also an amazing failure in police preparedness and reaction, both in terms of human resources and technical capabilities."

Andrew Silke, director of terrorism studies at the University of East London, called the police response "a bit Keystone Kops" because Norway's police were "just not used to dealing with something like this. The system was swamped."

Frank Cilluffo, director of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University, said Norway has been victimized in the same way as all countries caught off guard by terror.

Evita's portrait hung from Argentine ministry

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A giant iron portrait of Eva Peron was unveiled Tuesday on the front of Argentina's social development ministry building, where she gave a historic speech prior to her death from cancer in 1952.

The 31-meter-high (102-feet-high), 24-meter-wide (79-feet-wide) work weighing 15 tons resembles the iconic portrait of Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara in Havana, Cuba.

Argentina President Cristina Fernandez, who inaugurated and backed the portrait, said it was during a visit to Cuba that it occurred to her to pay homage to the wife of former President Juan Domingo Peron.

"I saw an image of Che on the ministry building he worked in. How is it possible that a society pays tribute to a man who is not from that country and we have no tributes to a woman who not only marked the entry of women into politics and the country's most important social revolution, but who also represented the people and country with more passion than anyone in history," Fernandez said.

The portrait was unveiled at 8:25 p.m. local time, the hour when the woman knows as Evita died on July 26, 1952.

The portrait was created by Argentine plastic artists Daniel Santoro and Alejandro Marmo.

It hangs from the ministry building on one of Buenos Aires' main avenues. It was here that Evita, with advanced cancer, announced on Aug. 22, 1951 that she was stepping down from her candidacy for the vice presidency on her husband's ticket.

The government plans to unveil another portrait of Evita on the north side of the building on the 60th anniversary of the "resignation."

AP

A 15 tons, 31x24 mt. iron portrait of the late Evita Peron, the iconic wife of former Argentina's strongman Juan Peron, is illuminated by orange lights during an unveiling ceremony in the 59th anniversary of her death in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

Doctor says Mubarak has refused to eat for 4 days

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has refused to eat for four days, has lost weight and is weak, his chief doctor said Tuesday, increasing speculation that the ousted leader won't stand trial next week as scheduled.

Any delay in Mubarak's trial would likely further enflame tensions between the military council ruling Egypt since Mubarak's fall and protesters frustrated with the pace of change. Many Egyptians already accuse the army of dragging its feet in prosecuting former regime figures and officials accused of killing protesters during the 18-day uprising that toppled Mubarak on Feb. 11.

Clashes erupted last week in Cairo after thousands of protesters tried to march on the military's headquarters and were met by men with knives, stick and clubs. Hundreds were injured before security forces dispersed the crowds with clouds of tear gas.

On Tuesday, Assam Azzam, the head of Mubarak's medical team, said the former leader was weak and had lost weight after refusing to eat for four days.

Doctors at the hospital in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh where Mubarak has been under house arrest since April said the former president consumes liquids, but only when pressured by the medical team or his wife.

"Mubarak gives in to pressure from the doctors more than he does to pressure from Suzanne Mubarak," Azzam said.

The doctors could feed him intravenously if his condition deteriorates, Azzam said. He added that the biggest threat to Mubarak's health is severe depression.

"We worry that his bad psychological state will affect his physical state," Azzam said.

Mubarak, who ruled Egypt unchallenged for 29 years, is set to stand trial on Aug. 3 for charges of corruption and ordering the killing of protesters during the uprising, during which nearly 850 people were killed.

Mubarak's sons—one-time heir apparent Gamal and wealthy businessman Alaa—are also to stand trial that day, along with former Interior Minister Habib al-Adly and six of his aides.

Rumors about Mubarak's health have been rife. Critics suspect they are a ruse to prevent Mubarak from standing trial, or even to sway public opinion toward granting him amnesty.

While there has been no official declaration, local media have reported that a courtroom has been prepared in Sharm el-Sheikh—a town usually known for its beaches and snorkeling—to hold the trial.

On Tuesday, Mohammed Nagib, security chief for south Sinai, said he had received no request from the Interior Ministry to begin planning security for the trial, which is likely to attract huge attention from the media and public alike.

Nagib said that if the trials were to be held in the resort town, the ministry would have to send security from elsewhere "so that we can ensure security for this historic trial."

Mexico judge sentences teenage assassin to 3 years

MIACATLAN, Mexico (AP)—A Mexican judge on Tuesday sentenced a teenage U.S. citizen to three years in prison for homicide, kidnapping and drug and weapons possession. Authorities say the teen confessed to killing four people whose beheaded bodies were found suspended from a bridge.

Edgar Jimenez Lugo, known as "El Ponchis," was given the maximum sentenced allowed for a minor in the central state of Morelos, said state prosecutor Jose Manuel Serrano Falmerol. Jimenez was tried in a state court because Mexico does not have a justice system to try minors at the federal level.

Mexican prosecutors said Jimenez was 14 years old.

Authorities say the teenager confessed to working for the South Pacific drug cartel, led by reputed drug lord Hector Beltran Leyva.

When he was handed over to federal prosecutors, the boy calmly said in front of cameras that he participated in four killings while drugged and under threat. The bodies were found in the tourist city of Cuernavaca.

In November, stories of a hit boy, maybe as young as 12, spread after a YouTube video appeared with teens mugging for the camera next to corpses and guns. One boy on the video alleged that "El Ponchis" was his accomplice.

Jimenez was born in San Diego, California. He and a sister were arrested in December as they tried to board a plane to Tijuana, where they planned to cross the border and reunite with their mother in San Diego.

The teenager has been in a juvenile detention center in Morelos since his arrest and will serve his time there, Serrano said.

The two siblings allegedly worked for Julio "El Negro" Padilla, a reputed drug trafficker who authorities say has been fighting for control of the drug trade in Morelos.

Morelos was formerly under the control of the Beltran Leyva gang, which broke up after alleged leader Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed in a shootout with Mexican marines a year ago. The battle among remnants of the gang has caused an unprecedented spike in violence in Morelos and in neighboring Guerrero state, where the resort city of Acapulco is located.

Focus

Drug prices to plummet in wave of expiring patents

ON THE NET

- Brand-name drugs going off patent through 2015: http://www.medcohealth.com/art/corporate/anticipatedfirsttime-generics.pdf
- Brand-name and generic drug price comparisons: https://www.flrx.com/calculator/generic/advanced-calculator.html

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The cost of prescription medicines used by millions of people every day is about to plummet.

The next 14 months will bring generic versions of seven of the world's 20 best-selling drugs, including the top two: cholesterol fighter Lipitor and blood thinner Plavix.

The magnitude of this wave of expiring drugs patents is unprecedented. Between now and 2016, blockbusters with about $255 billion in global annual sales will go off patent, notes EvaluatePharma Ltd., a London research firm. Generic competition will decimate sales of the brand-name drugs and slash the cost to patients and companies that provide health benefits.

Top drugs getting generic competition by September 2012 are taken by millions every day: Lipitor alone is taken by about 4.3 million Americans and Plavix by 1.4 million. Generic versions of big-selling drugs for blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, depression, high triglycerides, HIV and bipolar disorder also are coming by then.

The flood of generics will continue for the next decade or so, as about 120 brand-name prescription drugs lose market exclusivity, according to prescription benefits manager Medco Health Solutions Inc.

"My estimation is at least 15 percent of the population is currently using one of the drugs whose patents will expire in 2011 or 2012," says Joel Owerbach, chief pharmacy officer for Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, which serves most of upstate New York.

Those patients, along with businesses and taxpayers who help pay for prescription drugs through corporate and government prescription plans, collectively will save a fortune. That's because generic drugs typically cost 20 percent to 80 percent less than the brand names.

Doctors hope the lower prices will significantly reduce the number of people jeopardizing their health because they can't afford medicines they need.

Dr. Nieca Goldberg, director of The Women's Heart Program at NYU Langone Medical Center in Manhattan, worries about patients who are skipping checkups and halving pills to pare costs.

"You can pretty much tell by the numbers when I check the patient's blood pressure or cholesterol levels," that they've not taken their medications as often as prescribed, she says.

Even people with private insurance or Medicare aren't filling all their prescriptions, studies show, particularly for cancer drugs with copays of hundreds of dollars or more.

The new generics will slice copayments of those with insurance. For the uninsured, who have been paying full price, the savings will be much bigger.

Daly Powers, 25, an uninsured student who works two part-time jobs at low wages, says he often can't afford the $220 a month for his depression and attention deficit disorder pills. He couldn't buy either drug in June and says he's struggling with his Spanish class and his emotions. He looks forward to his antidepressant, Lexapro, going generic early next year.

"It'd make all the difference in the world," says Powers, of Bryan, Texas.

Generic medicines are chemically equivalent to the original brand-name drugs and work just as well for nearly all patients.

When a drug loses patent protection, often only one generic version is on sale for the first six months, so the price falls a little bit initially. Then, several other generic makers typically jump in, driving prices down dramatically.

Last year, the average generic prescription cost $72, versus $198 for the average brand-name drug, according to consulting firm Wolters Kluwer Pharma Solutions. Those figures average all prescriptions, from short-term to 90-day ones.

Average copayments last year were $6 for generics, compared with $24 for brand-name drugs given preferred status by an insurer and $35 for nonpreferred brands, according to IMS Health.

Among the drugs that recently went off patent, Protonix, for severe heartburn, now costs just $16 a month for the generic, versus about $170 for the brand name. And of the top sellers that soon will have competition, Lipitor retails for about $150 a month, Plavix costs almost $200 a month and blood pressure drug Diovan costs about $125 a month. For those with drug coverage, their out-of-pocket costs for each of those drugs could drop below $10 a month.

Jo Kelly, a retired social worker in Conklin, Mich., and her husband, Ray, a retired railroad mechanic, each take Lipitor and two other brand-name medicines, plus some generic drugs. Both are 67, and they land in the Medicare prescription "doughnut hole," which means they must pay their drugs' full cost by late summer or early fall each year. That pushes their monthly cost for Lipitor to about $95 each, and their combined monthly prescription cost to nearly $1,100.

Generic Lipitor should hit pharmacies Nov. 30 and cost them around $10 each a month.

"It would be a tremendous help for us financially," she says. "It would allow us to start going out to eat again."

For people with no prescription coverage, the coming savings on some drugs could be much bigger. Many discount retailers and grocery chains sell the most popular generics for $5 a month or less to draw in shoppers.

The impact of the coming wave of generics will be widespread - and swift.

Insurers use systems that make sure patients are switched to a generic the first day it's available. Many health plans require newly diagnosed patients to start on generic medicines. And unless the doctor writes "brand only" on a prescription, if there's a generic available, that's almost always what the pharmacist dispenses.

"A blockbuster drug that goes off patent will lose 90 percent of its revenue within 24 months. I've seen it happen in 12 months," says Ben Weintraub, a research director at Wolters Kluwer Pharma Solutions.

The looming revenue drop is changing the economics of the pharmaceutical industry.

In the 1990s, big pharmaceutical companies were wildly successful at creating pills that millions of people take every day for long-term conditions, from heart disease and diabetes to osteoporosis and chronic pain. The drugs are enormously profitable compared with drugs that are prescribed for short-term ailments.

The patents on those blockbusters, which were filed years before the drugs went on sale, last for 20 years at most, and many expire soon.

In recent years, many drug companies have struggled to develop new blockbuster drugs, despite multibillion-dollar research budgets and more partnerships with scientists at universities and biotech companies. The dearth of successes, partly because the "easy" treatments have already been found, has turned the short-term prognosis for "big pharma" anemic.

"The profit dollars that companies used to reinvest in innovation are no longer going to be coming," warns Terry Hisey, life sciences leader at consultant Deloitte LLP's pharmaceutical consulting business. He says that raises "long-term concerns about the industry's ability to bring new medicines to market."

But pharmaceutical companies can save billions when they stop promoting drugs that have new generic rivals, and U.S. drug and biotech companies are still spending more than $65 billion a year on R&D.

Drug companies have received U.S. approval for 20 drugs this year and expect approval for other important ones the next few years. Eventually, those will help fill the revenue hole.

For now, brand-name drugmakers are scrambling to adjust for the billions in revenue that will soon be lost. Typically, they raise prices 20 percent or more in the final years before generics hit to maximize revenue. Some also contract with generic drugmakers for "authorized generics," which give the brand-name company a portion of the generic sales.

Brand-name companies also are trimming research budgets, partnering with other companies to share drug development costs and shifting more manufacturing and patient testing to low-cost countries.

Pharmaceutical companies have cut about 10 percent of U.S. jobs in four years, from a peak of about 297,000 to about 268,000, according to Labor Department data. Nearly two-thirds of the cuts came in the last 1 1/2 years, partly because of big mergers that were driven by the need to bulk up drugs in development and boost profits in the short term by cutting costs.

Drug companies also are trying to grow sales by putting more sales reps in emerging markets, such as China and India, and by diversifying into businesses that get little or no generic competition. Those include vaccines, diagnostic tests, veterinary medicines and consumer health products.

As the proportion of prescriptions filled with generic drugs jumped to 78 percent in 2010, from 57 percent in 2004, annual increases in prescription drug spending slowed, to just 4 percent in 2010. According to the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, generics saved the U.S. health care system more than $824 billion from 2000 through 2009, and now save about $1 billion every three days.

The savings are only going to get greater as our overweight population ages. People who take their medicines regularly often avoid costly complications and hospitalizations, says AARP's policy chief, John Rother, which produces even bigger savings than the cheaper drugs.

In addition, many patients taking a particular brand-name drug will defect when a slightly older rival in the same class goes generic.

Global sales of Lipitor peaked at $12.9 billion in 2006, the year Zocor, an older drug in the statin class that reduces bad cholesterol, went generic. Lipitor sales then declined slowly but steadily to about $10.7 billion last year. That still will make Lipitor the biggest drug to go generic.

For patients, it's a godsend.

Douglas Torok, 59, of Erie, Pa., now spends nearly $290 every three months for insulin for his Type 2 diabetes, plus four daily pills - Lipitor, Plavix and two generics - for his blood pressure and cholesterol problems. The $40,000-a-year foundry supervisor fears not being able to cover the out-of-pocket costs when he retires and doesn't have a generous prescription plan.

In the meantime, once Lipitor and Plavix get generic competition his copayments will plunge.

"I will pay $16 for 90 days," says Torok, who hopes to travel more. "It's a big deal for me on my income."

Going generic

Seven of the top 20 best-selling prescription drugs worldwide will be available in generic versions within the next 14 months.

New generics at a glance

Manufacturer, condition treated and date generic will be available

Lipitor, Pfizer, high cholesterol
November 2011

Plavix, Bristol-Myers Squibb, prevent blood clots in patients with heart disease
May 2012

Seroquel, Astra-Zeneca, anti-psychotic
March 2012

Zyprexa, Eli Lilly, anti-psychotic
October 2011

Singulair, Merck, asthma
August 2012

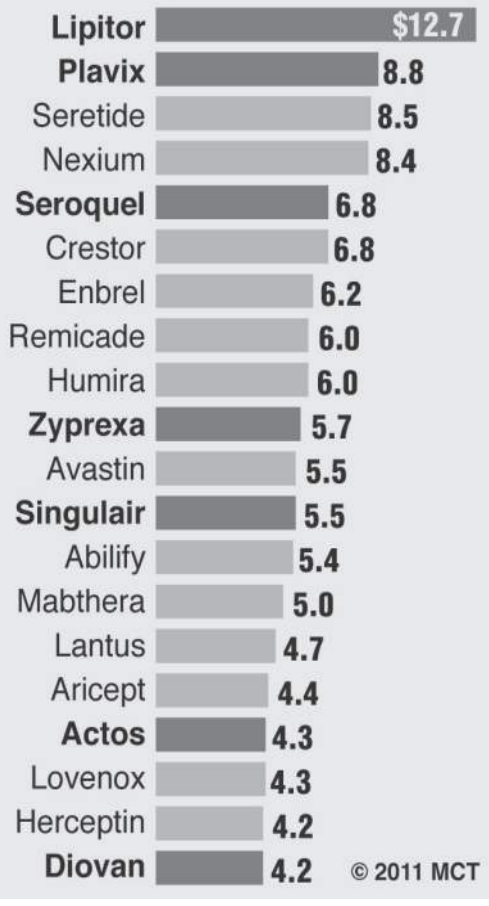
Actos, Tokeda, diabetes
August 2012

Diovan, Novartis, high blood pressure
September 2012

Source: IMS Health
Graphic: Pat Carr

Top sellers

2010 sales, in billions; soon available in generic version in bold



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Environment

Learning how to be a caretaker of these islands

By MATTHEW DELEON GUERRERO
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

My name is Matthew Deleon Guerrero. I left the CNMI to pursue higher education several years ago and have missed the beauty of the islands every day since. Dreams of Saipan's beautiful beaches and breathtaking natural environment have served me well in strengthening my spirit and determination while abroad. That is why I am so appreciative of the opportunity to give back to the islands through the Coral Reef Initiative Internship Program.

There are a total of 12 interns this summer, working with different fields of environmental protection. Interns are assigned to Coastal Resource Management Office, Division of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I am employed as an intern with the Division of Environmental Quality working on the ARRA-funded LaoLao Bay Road and Coastal Management Improvement Plan under the supervision of project manager Tim Lang. My duties involve work toward the revegetation of a 14-acre deforested upland area to reduce sedimentation into LaoLao bay. Sedimentation occurs when storm water runoff from exposed soils enters the marine environment. The sediment coats corals and algae, limiting their growth and threatening the sustainability of this truly gorgeous area of Saipan.

This internship has allowed me to participate in almost every aspect of this project, and to see the benefit each action brings for the area. I have been able to see the road construction that will reduce the amount of sediment-laden stormwater going into the bay. I assist in water sample collections to measure the effects that erosion has on the delicate chemical balance of the area, and I have hiked great lengths of the upland areas to monitor plant growth and plan for continued revegetative efforts. So far, this has been the most physically demanding and rewarding job I have ever had.

To better plan for future revegetation efforts, I have been given the opportunity to learn and utilize the most up-to-date Geographic Information System software. Using the GIS software, we are able to map and locate potential planting areas and provide the best possible erosion barrier for the bay.

A huge part of the revegetation effort is the propagation of specific plants to be transplanted in the project site. Plants were selected by the quality and depth of their root systems, the potential for soil enrichment, and size. Some of the plants that have been successfully transplanted in the area include Da'ok, Sosugi, Pago, Nanasu, and Banalo, among others. Working on the propagation of these plants has been an amazing education about the vegetation present on our islands.

Throughout this project I have come to realize the monumental importance education and outreach has toward the sustainability of our environment. One cause for the sedimentation problem in LaoLao bay is the burning of the forest by deer hunters. The deforestation of the area caused the deterioration of the soil and destruction of erosion controls. Greater education about the negative impacts of these practices will make the community realize that our actions have broad implications on the environmental sustainability of our home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matthew Deleon Guerrero monitors plant growth as part of his duties as a Coral Reef Initiative intern.

The true strength of the Coral Reef Initiative program lies in the incredible commitment and dedication of the mentors and staff. The staff and employees of the LaoLao Bay project are an intelligent and exceptionally hardworking group. Their enthusiasm for the goals of this project is palpable, which makes the work environment energetic and fun. Seeing talented individuals working toward goals they believe in is a truly incredible experience.

On an island with limited resources, the health of a single ecological community, like LaoLao Bay, can serve to benefit the entire system as a whole. I am proud to be associated with this project because it provides me the rare opportunity to show my appreciation to this land. My father always told me that we are only caretakers of this land for our children. I believe that through this project I have done a small part toward ensuring that future generations will have the privilege to be stewards of the beautiful beaches and breathtaking terrain of our island home.

A summer well lived

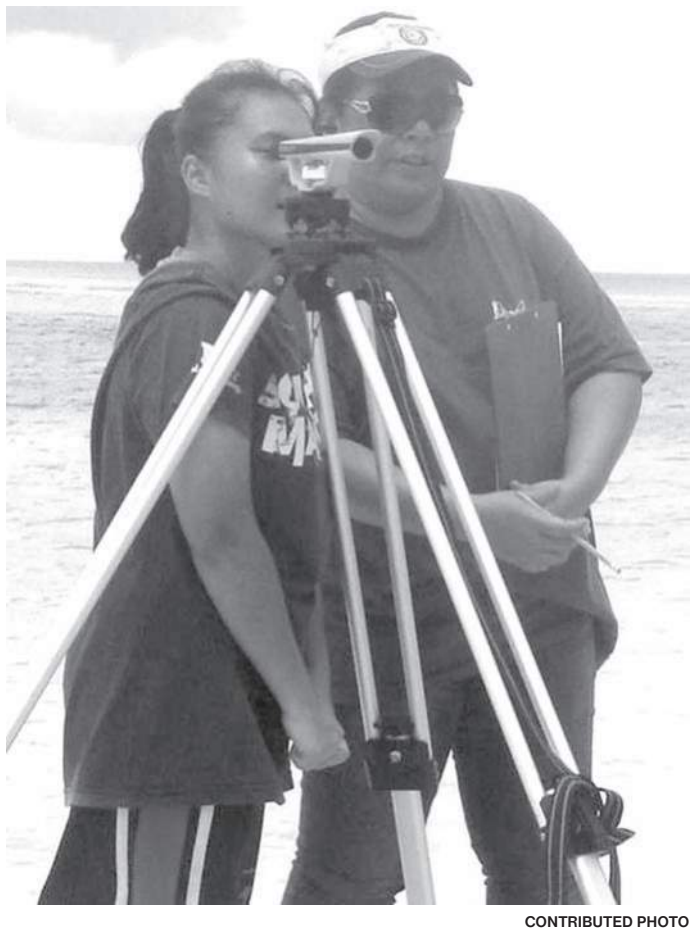
By GENELIN CAMACHO
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

It has been many years ago since I first saw the archipelago of the Northern Mariana Islands in a travel catalog, tucked away in a cabinet of my grandmother's décor and family pictures display. I must admit, I did doubt the existence of Saipan several times. Finally, seven years ago, I returned to this blessed and beautiful island where I discovered the other side of my family. I remember the first time I enjoyed the marine and terrestrial vista of this limestone island—it was clean and pristine indeed. Growing up as a child in the Philippines, my grandmother set a good example for me in good housekeeping. Through these experiences, awareness of and consideration for our environment's conditions became a part of my consciousness. My very first community service here on Saipan was cleaning up the beach at the back of my former middle school, Hopwood Junior High School. From that day on, whenever I had an opportunity to help our land and water ecosystems, such as village clean-ups and mangrove planting at the American Memorial Park, I had been on the move.

It is a privilege for me to be a part of the 8th Annual Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship Program. I applied for the CRI Internship because I agreed with its mission and commitment in the good stewardship of our islands' coral reefs, coastal lands/waters and the resources therein. It is even more of an honor for me to be the assigned intern at the Permitting branch of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office, which is presided over by one of the veterans of the agency, Ms. Ana C. Agulto. Her knowledge, words, wisdom, and example have helped me to better appreciate and execute my part in providing better care to our islands' bionetworks.

During the first two weeks of the internship, I read through the fundamentals of the CRM regulations and studied its terminology as well. From that early part of the internship and onwards, I have gradually comprehended what I have been studying through asking questions of my mentor and co-mentors and going out into the field and seeing/inspecting first-hand the minor and/or major sites that have already been given permits, under the process of being given a permit, or are possible candidates in applying for a permit. Issuing permits is not something to be taken lightly. In the words of my mentor: "You don't just give a permit for the sake of giving a permit."

On the 20th of June, I had my very first opportunity to see, and participate in a reef flat survey at Bird Island. In this reef flat survey, I learned how to collect information about the numbers and types of algae and invertebrates, which we identified with the help of our Marine Monitoring Team: David Benavente and Rodney Camacho. The following Friday, July 1, we had two other reef flat surveys that we conducted at Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio and in Susupe Beach Park. Our supervisor, Mr. John Iguel of DEQ, helped my group mates and I examine the information from the seagrass habitats. In these surveys, we named and tallied up a few more types of algae also. The next Friday, my mentor took us interns to Managaha where she taught us how to profile beaches based on the measurements of the elevations of the sand so we can determine the erosion and the deposition levels of the sand, and to also check on the progress of the recovery and re-vegetation of the northwestern part of the sand cay. This is important so we can know the reason behind the shifting of the sand to and from its original setting and how it affects Managaha.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Genelin Camacho is shown here doing fieldwork.

During the last two weeks, the CRM and WIA interns cleaned and painted the bus stop in front of our office. We hope that this will motivate people to take care of the bus stops and to take into heart what the CRM bus stop will display in form of a mural, which was drafted by Aaron Tomokane, an alumnus of Kagman High School.

I am currently still in the stage of making my one major project which is the analysis and the graphing of the permit index since the founding of CRM. My project will display the total number of permits issued within the three decades, which then will divide into which were issued for APCs, which were determined as major sitings, and what type of industry did a particular major siting was categorized under. Through this project, I will also be able to determine when the economy of the CNMI was at its peak.

When we do something for our Earth, whether it is negative or positive, minor or major, sooner or later, we will suffer or benefit from our actions. If it will not be us, then the ones who will reap the harvest will be our descendants. "Whatever we shall sow, we shall reap" (Galatians 6:7).

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS PRESENTS 'Home'

See our planet and the effects we have had on it like never before as First Friday Films presents *Home*, a film that discusses climate change and the impacts of human actions to the planet. The event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center starting at 6:30pm on Friday, Aug. 5. Steve McKagan, a coral reef ecologist at the

Habitat Conservation Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will be on hand to talk about the Coral Watch Program and the impacts of climate change here in the CNMI.

First Friday Films is a monthly environmental film series organized by the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality.

As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. For planning purposes, the movie runs 2 hours long; find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Garapan Thursday Street Market

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Art Posters

Leaf paintings

Umang Glee Club

Audience young and old.

We moseyed over to the Thursday night street market last week after showing my two young wards from Shenyang the American Memorial Park *(Mei Guo Gong Ren* to our resident *Zhongguoren)* and its environs. The sights, sounds, smell, and taste were compelling.

Something about the street market lends itself to being a communal node. Research shows that people who shop at regular grocery stores tend to do it fast while *Sabalu* market shoppers meet neighbors and have an average of 10 conversations with live folks before heading back home.

The street market had the same dynamic last Thursday. Retired Jack Hardy, the Ohio surgeon turned graphic designer and photographer, in his signature look, was a delight to run into. The photog of many Saipan postcards, he no longer lug SLRs but his digital camera is just fine for his craft. He's still busy clicking away.

The big surprise was long-term broadcaster Harry Blalock who conducts scuba dives to the Marianas from elsewhere, where by the looks of it, he may have too easy an access to lollipops than he needed to. The ex-radio guy who plugged our autism family and women's empowerment events in our early years casually sauntered through the crowd in what in the olden days would have been familiar grounds.

Dino Jones, investigating legislator of the "global top toxic spot," who opted out of politics for family and business a few years back, still looks swimming trim, though whatever medication he might be taking (we guess), it might have slowed down reflexes and affected normal metabolism. Hopefully, it had nothing to do with the toxicity he tried to highlight out of Tanapag early this century.

Sea shells

One of the features of China life I have yet to explore fully is the daily street market. I shop at the grocery store because prices are marked on the produce, but the fresh fruits and vegetables on the makeshift street stalls, or spread out on the street grounds, are considerably of more recent vintage. One has to haggle for the price, though, and our *Putunghua* is not good enough to navigate through them shark-infested commercial waters! The sharkies are there, all right, to prey on the unwary. I am working my way to the language. That, or find a local who will steer the rudder for me.

One of the stall proprietors did find my talking to him in English refreshing. He got to practice English that he had not used for almost a decade, but more, he is pleased not to decipher a foreigner's bad Chinese in order to understand him. That pretty much sealed out my enthusiasm at learning the language in order to communicate.

At the Saipan Thursday street market, all a non-English speakers has to do is point to four dishes and they get their dinner for a standard $5. The veggie stalls are all green, and the art and trinket booths do not look like tourist traps. The *Namaste* corner was resplendent with Indian banners, beads and bangles. There was the framed poster shop, the leaf paintings, and the seashells (see photos).

The evening's performances topped our stroll. We saw two: a Hula troupe and a singing group. The hula is standard fare in all the hotels and celebrative occasions save these were young dancers untainted yet with professional cosmetics. The *Umang* (coconut crab) Glee Club of KES might have looked a bit jerky when they shook their booty and stomp their feet to songs and medleys but when they got to the Black Eye Peas' *Where is the love,* we were rocketed to another dimension.

Overseas, yeah, we tryin' to stop terrorism
but we still got terrorists here livin'.
In the USA, the big CIA,
the Bloodz and the Crips, and the KKK,
but if you only have love for your own race,
then you only leave space to discriminate
and to discriminate only generates hate...

We still have two missing sisters. Even staid Norway recently got rocked. The racial undertones in dealing with alien workers, from Fortress Arizona to copycat Saipan are ugly and hateful. I wondered if the elementary kids knew what they were singing about, or if the audience understood what they are hearing until I saw a young lady lip-sync and revealed she knew of the song, though not of the *Umangs.*

I thought of the *Singing Revolution* of Estonia (now a docu-film). With no army and weapon-less, it was ruled by the Russians, the Germans, and back to the Russians for 50 years. But they kept singing their forbidden patriotic songs, and the Soviet's brief flirting with *perestroika* and *glasnost* ironically exacerbated the situation until a hard-liner "coup" toppled Mikhail Gorbachev out of the Kremlin. Estonia two days later found itself free as a consequence. They keep on singing the story of their bloodless liberation.

The street market not only provides the venue for singing and dancing troupes, it has a potential of being a glocal community event from all the ethnics on island with their arts and crafts on display and for trade. Would it not be a ball if the singing and dancing were made participatory?

The street market is more potent than the stimulus-prone, bailout-demanding, crises-reeling Wall Street of our financial market. Let's patronize the Thursday street market.

Namaste corner

Winehouse family, friends attend singer's funeral

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Wearing dark suits, black dresses and the occasional beehive hairdo, friends and family said goodbye to Amy Winehouse Tuesday with prayers, tears, laughter and song at an emotional funeral ceremony.

"Amy was the greatest daughter, family member and friend you could ever have," said her father, Mitch Winehouse, in a section of the eulogy released by a family spokesman.

The singer's father, mother and brother were joined by Winehouse's close friends, band members and celebrities including producer Mark Ronson for the service at Edgwarebury Cemetery in north London. Media personality Kelly Osbourne was one of several women to wear their hair piled beehive-high in an echo of the singer's trademark style.

Fans and photographers thronged the lane outside, but the funeral was for several hundred friends and family only.

Mitch Winehouse told mourners that his late daughter had recently found love and had beaten her drug dependency three years before her death, but he admitted she was still struggling to control her drinking after several weeks of abstinence.

"She said, 'Dad I've had enough of drinking, I can't stand the look on your and the family's faces anymore.'" Mitch Winehouse said.

He said Amy had been playing her drums and singing in the home the night before her death.

"But knowing she wasn't depressed, knowing she passed away, knowing she passed away happy, it makes us all feel better," he said, adding that he hopes to set up an Amy Winehouse Foundation that would help people beat substance abuse.

The cab driver and jazz singer, who helped foster his daughter's love of music, ended his eulogy with the words "Goodnight, my angel, sleep tight. Mummy and Daddy love you ever so much."

The Jewish service was led by a rabbi and included prayers in English and Hebrew.

It ended with a rendition of Carole King's "So Far Away," one of Winehouse's favorite songs.

"Mitch was funny, he told some great stories from childhood about how headstrong she was, and clearly the family and friends recognized the stories and laughed along," said family spokesman Chris Goodman.

"He stressed so many times she was happier now than she had ever been and he spoke about her boyfriend and paid tribute to a lot of people in her life."

AP
Mourners react as they leave Edgwarebury Cemetery in London, Tuesday July 26, 2011, after attending the funeral of singer Amy Winehouse.

Family friend Alfie Ezekiel, 55, said the service had been a "joyful" celebration of the singer's life.

"Mitch gave a very good eulogy and he managed to get through it very well, considering," he said.

Close family and friends—including Winehouse's recent boyfriend, Reg Traviss—moved on to Golders Green Crematorium, where the singer was cremated.

Several mourners, including Ronson—who co-produced Winehouse's breakthrough album "Back to Black"—looked emotional as they left the red brick structure, which has seen the cremations of thousands of ordinary Londoners and many celebrities, including psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, comedian Peter Sellers and drummer Keith Moon of The Who.

The family was then due to hold two days of shiva, a Jewish traditional period of mourning.

The soul diva, who had battled alcohol and drug addiction for years, was found dead Saturday at her London home. She was 27.

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Captain America: The First Avenger
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Chris Evans, Tommy Lee Jones
Action • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Meek U.S. Army soldier Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) takes part in an experimental military program that infuses him with super-human powers, and uses his newfound strength to battle the villainous Red Skull (Hugo Weaving) in this comic-book adventure from director Joe Johnston (The Wolfman, The Rocketeer). Tommy Lee Jones, Neal McDonough, and Stanley Tucci co-star in a film written by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeeley.

Friends With Benefits
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
A New York headhunter (Mila Kunis) enters into a no-strings-attached relationship with her latest client (Justin Timberlake), but finds things getting unexpectedly complicated when emotions enter the picture. Patricia Clarkson and Woody Harrelson co-star.

Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Action, Adventure, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The final adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for a final battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux—that is, the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal—before his nefarious plans come to fruition.

Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

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Death lands Winehouse back on charts

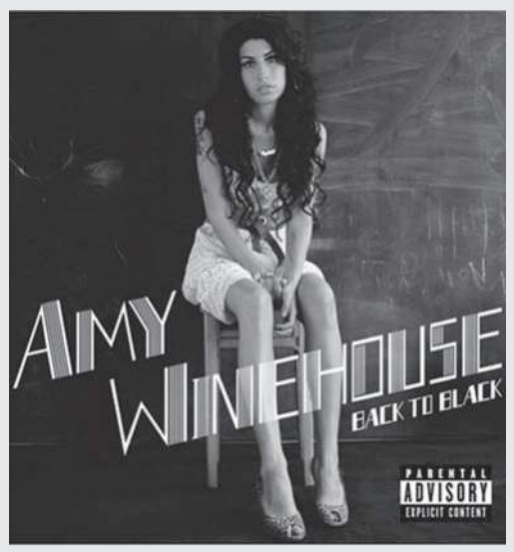
NEW YORK (AP)—Death has landed Amy Winehouse back on the charts.

The British singer's "Back to Black" album will re-enter the Billboard album chart at No. 9, with 37,000 albums sold in the United States in the past week. Those figures come from Nielsen SoundScan data released late Tuesday. Her debut album "Frank" sold 7,000 copies. All but a fraction of those sales were digital downloads.

"Back to Black" hadn't sold that many copies in three years.

There were also 111,000 digital tracks of Winehouse's music sold over the past week—a 2,000 percent increase. The most downloaded Winehouse song? Her most famous one, "Rehab."

Winehouse died of unknown causes at her London home on Saturday. She was 27, and had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction for years.



Actress Matarazzo plans to wed longtime girlfriend

NEW YORK (AP)—Heather Matarazzo has played some tough parts in her career—from Dawn Weiner in "Welcome to the Dollhouse" to Sadie Atkins in the upcoming "Manson Girls." But the 28-year-old actress sees her next role as the most important.

With New York becoming the sixth, and largest, state to legalize same-sex marriage, Matarazzo plans to wed longtime girlfriend Caroline Murphy.

"My eyes and spirit have opened up since I found someone that I get to share my life with," Matarazzo says of Murphy.

But the couple had no desire to make history last Sunday by getting married on the first day the law took effect.

"I always wanted a wedding," Murphy says. "Not a trip to City Hall."

Wanting to share their union with their closest friends and family, the couple opted to plan their dream wedding. Though plans are still in the making, both seem to favor a bucolic setting in the fall or spring for the ceremony and reception. And with large families on both sides, Murphy expects the wedding list to top 200 guests.

For the ceremony, Matarazzo envisions wearing a simple, off-white dress, but has yet to find the right one.

"When I see it I will just know," she says

Murphy, a recording artist currently working on her first album, says she'll likely wear a white pants suit, "but a sexy one," when she walks down the aisle.

Engaged for three years, the couple originally planned to marry in California two years ago. But their plans were nixed when Proposition 8 eliminated the rights of same-sex couples to marry in the state. Now they hope that impending court challenges do not reverse New York's law before they can say, "I do."

The couple experienced another bump when they returned to New York and met with then-governor David Patterson.

"He led us to believe gay marriage would be legal last September, and he even agreed to marry us," Murphy said. "We started planning on that, and that went away."

They're both anxious to start a family.

"We've always talked that Caroline would have a child first, and then I will go," Matarazzo says.

After that, they plan to adopt.

Matarazzo says she sees herself and Murphy as complete beings that came together to help one another grow.

"I don't believe that I've found my other half," she says. "That would mean I was thinking of myself as incomplete."

Murphy agrees and remembers calling her mother the day she met Matarazzo and telling her: "Mom, I just met my wife."

McQueen's will shows his love for dogs, charities

LONDON (AP)—The late fashion designer Alexander McQueen left most of his considerable fortune to charities but also left money to his siblings, household staff and for the upkeep of his dogs, according to documents made public Tuesday.

McQueen, one of the brightest stars in British fashion, committed suicide last year just days after his mother's death.

The documents show that McQueen, who was 40, left an estate worth just over 16 million pounds ($26 million).

He left 250,000 pounds each to his three sisters and two brothers, and 50,000 pounds each to his two-person household staff, his godson, and each of his nieces and nephews.

The animal lover left 50,000 pounds for the continual care of his dogs and donated 100,000 pounds each to two charities that help animals: the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and the Blue Cross Animal Welfare Charity. Both provide care for abandoned animals and help find them homes.

Kim Hamilton, chief executive of the Blue Cross animal charity, said the group is "thrilled" with the bequest.

"It is a touching tribute to his obvious love for his dogs and his legacy will allow us to help many thousands more sick and homeless animals across the UK," she said.

AP

This May 13, 2008 file photo shows British fashion designer Alexander McQueen interviewed as he arrives for the Los Angeles Alexander McQueen Boutique launch party in Los Angeles.

McQueen also left 100,000 pounds each to the London Buddhist Center and the Terrence Higgins Trust, which helps promote sexual health and safe sex practices.

The designer, known for his edgy and artistic creations, left the bulk of his estate to his Sarabande charity with the suggestion that some money be used for scholarships at London's Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design.

He was one of the school's many famous graduates.

Dan Peek, founding member of band America, dies

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Dan Peek, a founding member of the popular 1970s band America and singer of high harmonies on hits that included "A Horse With No Name" and "Ventura Highway," has died, his father said Tuesday. He was 60.

Peek's wife, Catherine, found him dead Sunday in bed in his home in Missouri, southwest of St. Louis, Milton Peek said. The cause of death was not known, and an autopsy was planned. Dan Peek suffered from arthritis, but it wasn't known if that was a contributing factor.

Peek, whose father was in the U.S. Air Force, had met the two other members of America—Dewey Bunnell and Gerry Beckley—while attending high school in London. After signing a record contract, America was an almost instant sensation with songs featuring tight harmonies over catchy tunes. All told, America had three platinum and three gold albums, along with eight Top 40 hits, from 1971 through 1975.

"It was a joyous time for the three of us, full of excitement and laughter," Bunnell wrote on the band's website after learning of Peek's death. "We created lasting music together and experienced a life that we could never have imagined."

The group's first album in 1971 included the No. 1 hit "Horse With No Name." Other hits followed: "Tin Man," ''Sister Golden Hair," and "Daisy Jane," among them. Peek played lead guitar on many of the songs, and wrote some of them, including the 1974 hit "Lonely People."

"Dan & his music will live on in the great songs he shared with us all," Beckley wrote on the group's website.

Peek had lived in Missouri since 1978, soon after he left the band. He also had a home in the Cayman Islands.

Peek was born Nov. 1, 1950, in Florida. His father was in the Air Force and the family frequently moved. He met Bunnell and Beckley in the late 1960s.

Glenn Beck says Norway camp like 'Hitler Youth'

NEW YORK (AP)—Conservative radio talk show host Glenn Beck said on his show that the camp in Norway where a gunman opened fire on young people sounds "like Hitler Youth."

Beck

On his radio show Monday, the former Fox News Channel host was discussing last week's attacks where at least 76 people were killed. In an aside, he talked about the Utoya Island camp run by the ruling Labor Party for youngsters interested in politics.

The camp "sounds a little like the Hitler Youth or whatever," Beck said. "Who does a camp for kids that's all about politics? Disturbing."

The camp was targeted by the gunman, who claimed he was trying to save Europe from what he says is Muslim colonization. The Labor Party has advanced a policy of ethnic tolerance.

Torbjorn Eriksen, a former press secretary to Norway prime minister Jens Stoltenberg, told The Daily Telegraph in England that the comments were a "new low" for Beck.

"Young political activists have gathered at Utoya for over 60 years to learn about and be part of democracy, the very opposite of what the Hitler Youth was about," Eriksen said. "Glenn Beck's comments are ignorant, incorrect and extremely hurtful."

Beck made his comments during a discussion about problems that he predicted Europe would face because of an increased Muslim population. He denounced the gunman, who he said "is just as bad as Osama bin Laden."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

US congressman apologizes for Winehouse post

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri (AP)—A U.S. congressman is apologizing to people offended by his Twitter post using the death of British singer Amy Winehouse to make a point about the federal government's spending. Republican Billy Long tweeted Monday saying: "No one could reach (hash)AmyWinehouse before it was too late. Can anyone reach Washington before it's too late? Both addicted—same fate???" Winehouse was found dead Saturday after struggling with drug and alcohol addiction for years. An autopsy didn't determine what killed the 27-year-old. Long says he thinks spending more than is collected also is an addiction. He told the Springfield News-Leader he meant no disrespect to Winehouse and apologized if anyone was offended. Long is serving his first term in Congress after working for years as an auctioneer and realtor.

Schwarzenegger son out of hospital after surf fall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The youngest son of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver is out of the hospital after a bodyboarding accident at a Malibu beach. Thirteen-year-old Christopher Schwarzenegger suffered a collapsed lung and broken bones in the July 17 mishap. Shriver tweeted Tuesday that Christopher was released Monday evening after a nine-day stay. She thanked doctors, nurses and intensive care unit staffers who cared for the teen. In a Twitter post Monday the former governor said, "Thanks for all your support for Christopher. It means a lot to me & to him. He's doing much better & we'll have him back at full speed soon." Schwarzenegger and Shriver are in the midst of a divorce.

Wal-Mart offers video streaming on website

NEW YORK (AP)—Now playing: Movies at Walmart.com.

The world's largest retailer on Tuesday started streaming many movies the same day they come out on DVD, in a second bid for a share of popular movie rental and streaming website Netflix Inc.'s business and just two weeks after Netflix announced new price increases.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. bought video-streaming service Vudu.com 18 months ago and now offers 20,000 titles that can be viewed on almost any device with Internet access, from computers to televisions to Sony's PlayStation3 and other Blu-Ray disc players.

Movies are available at Walmart.com to rent for $1 to $5.99 or to purchase for $4.99 and up. Wal-Mart is not offering subscriptions, making its service more similar to Apple Inc.'s iTunes, which charges $3.99 to rent newly released movies and $14.99 to buy a movie.

In addition to Netflix, another competitor streaming movies and TV shows by subscription is Hulu.com, which now offers a premium service for $7.99 a month with more back-season shows and more movies. Without a subscription, Hulu viewers can watch shows and movies free in exchange for watching advertising.

The movie offering fits with the Wal-Mart website's strategy of offering a "seamless continuous shopping service," said Steve Nave, senior vice president and general manager of Walmart.com.

Wal-Mart's announcement comes on the heels of Netflix saying it will raise rates and charge separately for streaming and rental DVDs. Its second price hike in eight months, Netflix's planned increases could amount to 60 percent for existing customers, starting Sept. 1. New subscribers have to pay the new prices immediately.

Readers shed light on tilting blinds to thwart prying eyes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "In the Dark in Texas" (May 27) was wondering about the correct way to tilt blinds. Light coming in through a window should not be the deciding factor for which way the blinds close. Privacy should be of highest importance.

After years of living in apartments, I have learned the direction of a blind's slats should change depending on the location of the window.

If the window is on the ground floor, the blind should be closed slats up. Otherwise, people can see in from the floors above. This information is particularly useful in multistory neighborhoods and apartment complexes.

If, however, you are on an upper floor and the slats are up, anyone can see in from the ground floor. For that reason blinds on an upper floor should close slats down.

If you live in the middle, your best bet is curtains.

AZALIAH IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR AZALIAH: Readers' views on this subject came from varying perspectives—privacy, light, heat, etc. But the general consensus was the same. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "In the Dark" asked whether blinds should be closed with the slats up or down. As you said, it's a matter of personal preference. However, as a former apartment manager, I can say from experience that closing them with the slats in a downward position will allow in enough sunlight to fade carpets, furniture and drapes. I close mine with the slats up—for privacy and to prevent the fading of items near the window.

FORMER APARTMENT MANAGER IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: My husband had a window treatment store years ago and this is what we learned: If you are upstairs, the slats go down. If you are downstairs, they go up. To check this out, after dark with the lights on inside, go outside and look inside. You will be able to see clearly what is going on in the house. Follow this rule to keep Peeping Toms at bay.

SHANNON IN OLYMPIA, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: It is common knowledge (I thought) that slats tilted up deflect both heat and light. Blinds tilted down let light in from above as well as heat in the summer and cold in the winter.

Like toilet paper rolls, toothpaste tube squeezing and thermostat setting, this is yet another bone of contention in marriage.

COOLING DOWN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Dust and clothing have started to build up in my bedroom. I have told my mom and she doesn't do anything about it, and I'm tired of telling her! The mess makes it hard to live in. I think she does not love me since she will not do anything about the mess. What should I do?

UNLOVED GIRL IN SPOKANE, WASH.

DEAR UNLOVED GIRL: Your mother does love you. What she's doing is trying to teach you how to be independent. The first thing you should do is pick up the clothes that are lying around in your bedroom. Any items that are soiled should go into the hamper to be washed. The rest should be hung up or folded and put away. Once that's done you will need to clean any surfaces that are dusty, including under the bed. If you don't know how, ask your mother to show you.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

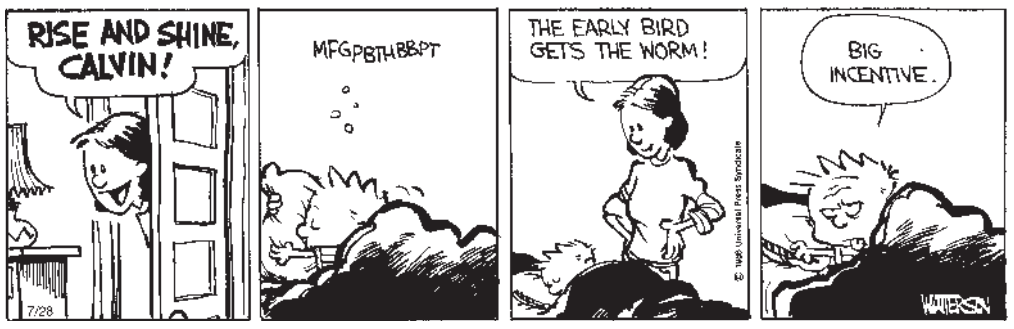
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

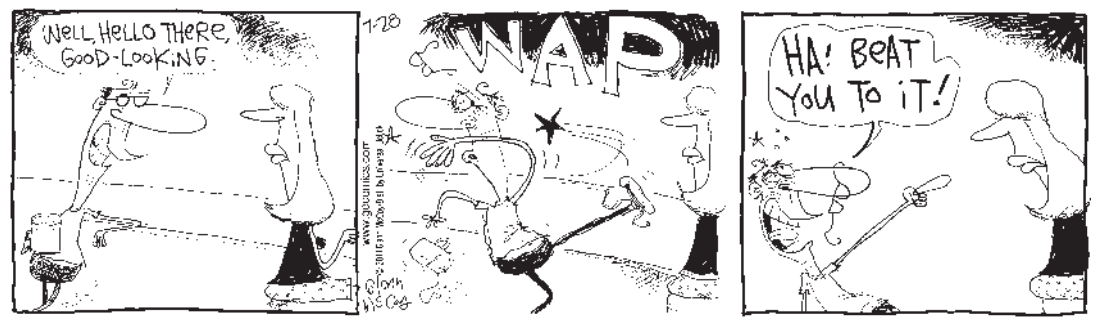
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AH, HERE IT COMES. A LOVELY SUMMER SHOWER.
AH. THAT, MY DEAR, IS CALLED THE PETRICHOR.
UH HUH.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THAT TERM?
SURE, IT'S THE SMELL OF RAIN ON DRY EARTH.
MORE LIKE THE SMELL OF YOU RAINING ON MY PRETENTIOUS PARADE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Long story
5 Pouch
8 Advantage
12 "— have believed it?"
13 Former Pan Am rival
14 Check
15 Greek vowel
16 Conger, for one
17 McNally partner
18 Nearsightedness
20 Blunder
22 Relax for a bit
26 Approach bedtime
29 Numerical prefix
30 Sister
31 Saharan
32 Bashful
33 No from the White House
34 Chaps
35 Will Smith biopic
36 Be philanthropic
37 What I'd've done "if I knew you were comin' "
40 Narrative writing
41 Computer whiz
45 Medal earner
47 Center
49 Marx or Malden
50 MasterCard alternative, for short
51 Schedule abbr.
52 B.P.O.E. members
53 Punch partner
54 Shaft of light
55 Medicinal amount

DOWN
1 Emulate Michael Phelps
2 "Hi, sailor!"
3 Attend
4 Made suitable
5 The turf in "surf and turf"
6 Shock and —
7 City in Alberta
8 See 20-Across
9 Wounded with sound
10 Martini ingredient
11 Conclusion
19 Author Fleming
21 Kyoto cummerbund
23 Body of principles
24 Car
25 Recognize
26 Mary's follower
27 Neighborhood
28 Worked unskillfully (with)
32 Horror movie villain, often
33 Like some sweaters
35 Commotion
36 — out a living
38 Strong adhesive
39 Cornered
42 Head light?
43 Annoys
44 Otherwise
45 Meccan pilgrimage
46 Ostrich's cousin
48 Actress Hagen

Solution time: 25 mins.

		B	O	B			T	S	A			
	U	A	N	A		S	A	U	N	A		
P	I	N	C	H		T	U	R	N	I	P	
T	A	K	E	A	C	A	N	D	E	R	A	T
A	L	S		M	U	S	T	S		W	I	N
			G	A	S	H			R	A	N	T
	B	L	A	S	I		J	O	E	Y	S	
B	R	I	M			L	A	U	D			
E	O	N		A	D	A	P	T		E	S	A
G	O	T	G	O	O	S	E	B	U	M	P	S
	D	E	A	R	M	E		A	L	I	A	S
		I	I	T	F	R		C	F	I	T	
			T	A	D			K	E	Y		

Yesterday's answer 7-28

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50					51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Berkley, 39; Lori Loughlin, 47; Sally Struthers, 63; Jim Davis, 66.

Happy Birthday: You will have to weigh the pros and cons of every situation and make your moves strategically. You can expect to face emotional opposition from the people who are most affected by your decisions. Be prepared to convince whomever gets in your way that you know what you are doing. Your numbers are 2, 4, 12, 26, 29, 34, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be far too emotional to hang around the house. Get your responsibilities out of the way quickly and move on to more pleasurable pastimes. Avoid anyone who puts pressure on you. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan to do something out of the ordinary or to sign up for an interesting course. Keep your distance from anyone who is likely to complain or burden you with chores. Short trips that allow you to experience something new will help you expand your awareness. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put pressure on anyone who owes you a favor. Discuss anything that you feel is holding you back. Express your position and how you wish to proceed. Good fortune can be yours if you handle your current situation with confidence. An innovative idea will bring in extra cash. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An impulsive decision, move or statement will cause problems. Putting pressure on others will backfire. Keep your complaints to yourself, and honor any promises you made. Someone from your past will disrupt your life if you are too quick to forgive and forget. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): It's important that you recognize who is on your side. Stick to the people you have always been able to count on and avoid anyone who is requesting too much for too little. Change is good, but too much of anything isn't. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Looking the part is half the battle when you are trying to get ahead. Expand your horizons as well as your skills and you will have better luck finding opportunities that fit your lifestyle and goals. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can make a wise investment if you don't let your emotions intervene. Postpone a trip or any dealing you have with institutions or agencies. Time is on your side, and taking longer to prepare will pay off. A problem with a friend or relative can be expected. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your high creative energy will help you complete your projects and put your ideas into motion. Don't be surprised if you receive interest from someone who can help you develop something you have been struggling with. Protect your heart. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Invest in what you know and do best. You can make extra cash if you start your own small enterprise. Consider buying or selling something that will help you in the future. Put more effort into partnerships. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be emotional regarding partnerships. Don't let the past stand in the way of a bright new future. A change of residence or buying and selling investments will turn out well. A creative but forceful approach to business and working with others will give you an edge. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your energy into moneymaking investments and increasing your circle of friends. The more you interact with others, the greater your chance of finding someone who can contribute to your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't bother getting angry, upset or emotional regarding domestic changes. Acceptance is the quickest way to win favors in return and to make whatever situation you face work to your advantage. Enjoy socializing late in the day with someone who shares your sentiments. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and persuasive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	8	2			1	7	
				5	4			
		7				3		
	6							5
	3			2			6	
9							4	
		1				7		
			8	3				
	8	6			5	4	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	5	2	8	1	9	4	6
1	2	9	6	4	3	8	5	7
8	6	4	5	7	9	2	1	3
5	7	6	9	1	8	4	3	2
9	1	8	3	2	4	6	7	5
3	4	2	7	5	6	1	8	9
6	9	1	8	3	5	7	2	4
4	5	7	1	6	2	3	9	8
2	8	3	4	9	7	5	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE KALAHARI DESERT **Solution: 10 letters**

A	Y	R	D	A	K	S	S	A	R	G	S	S	H	S
F	R	U	I	T	O	M	D	H	R	E	D	Y	O	N
A	O	E	R	N	B	R	D	E	E	R	E	U	R	A
U	O	A	A	U	N	O	A	R	I	N	T	R	N	M
N	M	W	S	U	E	T	T	B	A	H	E	T	E	I
A	I	H	T	L	E	S	O	S	E	P	E	K	D	B
K	E	S	B	R	T	W	G	R	T	L	O	E	M	I
S	U	I	P	E	S	O	N	I	O	B	S	Ⓔ	E	A
S	D	D	T	V	D	A	L	P	S	I	Ⓖ	L	L	N
E	T	N	U	I	F	E	E	M	O	Ⓖ	A	A	O	A
I	N	I	A	R	A	A	E	T	Ⓢ	N	R	R	N	W
C	U	T	I	S	L	G	R	T	D	R	G	G	I	S
E	H	C	U	O	L	O	F	L	O	R	A	E	N	T
P	A	G	O	H	T	R	A	W	C	A	M	E	L	O
S	N	O	I	L	I	S	S	O	F	S	E	M	I	B

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Antelope, Area, Arid, Arrows, Birds, Botswana, Bows, Bushes, Camel, Dogs, Dry, Edible, Eggs, Eland, Fall, Fauna, Flora, Fossil, Fruit, Game, Gemsbok, Grass, Great, Herbs, Horned, Hunt, Hut, Hyenas, Kiwano, Kudu, Large, Leopard, Lions, Melon, Namibia, Nuts, Rain, Reptile, River, Room, Sand, Semi, Southern Africa, Species, Steenbok, Storm, Tortoise, Trees, Warthog

Yesterday's Answer: Treatment

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is looking for an experience and energetic individual to fill the position of

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

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Please submit your resume and employment application form available at
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT, no later than August 18, 2011.

LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort is an EEOC.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms.
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **DIEGO SN. DELA CRUZ and LEOLANIE R. DELA CRUZ,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 06-0331 CV**

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the attached Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 25th day of August, 2011, at 1:30pm, before Judge Wiseman in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ego ace

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Find today's solution in this section

Braves survive Pirates in 19 innings

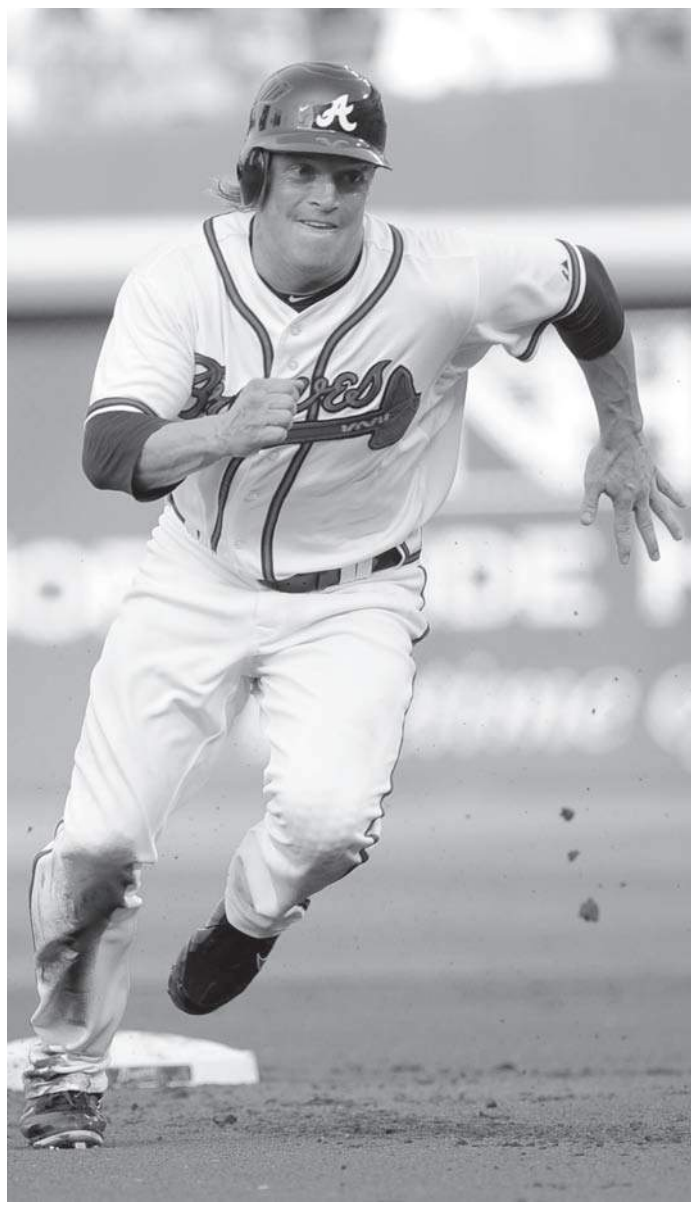
ATLANTA(AP)—Julio Lugo scored from third base on a contested play at the plate, giving the Atlanta Braves a 4-3 win in 19 innings over the Pittsburgh Pirates early Wednesday morning.

The game, which ended just before 2 a.m., was the longest in Turner Field history and matched the longest in the major leagues this season. At 6 hours, 39 minutes, it was the longest by time for both teams.

Lugo took on Scott Proctor's grounder to third baseman Pedro Alvarez, whose throw to catcher Michael McKenry easily beat Lugo to the plate.

Lugo tried to avoid McKenry's tag with a pop-up slide. Replays indicated McKenry made the tag, but home plate umpire Jerry Meals called Lugo safe.

Pirates manager Clint Hurdle argued the call vigorously, following Meals off the field as the Braves celebrated.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Nate McLouth advances to third base on a throwing error by Pittsburgh Pirates Michael McKenry after stealing second during the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, July 26, 2011, in Atlanta.

Phillies 7, Giants 2

At Philadelphia, rookie right-hander Vance Worley threw a three-hitter and Chase Utley hit an inside-the-park homer to lead Philadelphia to a 7-2 victory over San Francisco on Tuesday night.

Worley (7-1) had five strikeouts and one walk, and has allowed two earned runs or less in 11 of his 13 career starts. It was Worley's fifth straight win.

Ryan Howard, John Mayberry Jr. and Raul Ibanez also homered for the Phillies.

Aaron Rowand of the Giants homered against his former team.

Barry Zito (3-3), a late replacement for scheduled starter Tim Lincecum, allowed six runs and six hits in seven innings. Lincecum was scratched two hours before the game due to a stomach illness.

Mets 8, Reds 6

At Cincinnati, Jason Pridie put New York ahead with a two-run double, and the Mets took advantage of one of Cincinnati's worst defensive performances of the season.

The Mets scored six unearned runs off Johnny Cueto (6-4) with the help of three errors, matching the Reds' high for a game.

Jonathon Niese (10-8) went five innings for the win.

David Wright continued his hitting surge since returning from a stress fracture in his lower back. The Mets' cleanup hitter had two more hits and drove in a run, improving to 10 for 24 with seven RBIs in his five games back.

Marlins 11, Nationals 2

At Washington, Greg Dobbs drove in a career-high five runs, including a solo homer, and Logan Morrison and John Buck both homered to lead Florida.

Dobbs drove in Florida's first run in the first on a groundout. He added another run-scoring single in the seventh and drove in two more on a single a five-run ninth inning.

It was the second time this year the Marlins have scored at least 10 runs. Florida beat the Cubs 13-3 on July 16.

Ricky Nolasco (7-7) pitched into the sixth inning, allowing two runs and three hits as Florida won its third straight.

Brewers 3, Cubs 2

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun doubled in a run, Casey McGehe added a two-run triple and Milwaukee's bullpen tossed four scoreless innings.

Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run homer for the Cubs, who saw their season-best three-game winning streak snapped.

Chris Narveson (7-6) went five innings but needed reliever Kameron Loe to bail him out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth. John Axford tied a franchise mark with his 25th consecutive save.

Cardinals 3, Astros 1

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in the first inning for St. Louis and Jake Westbrook made it hold up with six innings of one-run ball.

Pujols hit the first pitch he saw from Brett Myers (3-11) on a line to left-center field. The ball appeared to hit the top of the wall, but was ruled a home run by third base umpire Mike DiMuro. Houston center fielder Michael Bourn and left fielder Carlos Lee rushed in to dispute the call, which was subsequently reviewed by replay and upheld for Pujols' 23rd homer.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1

At San Diego, Joe Saunders came within one out of a shutout and Justin Upton and Kelly Johnson drove in two runs each for Arizona.

Saunders (7-8) had two outs in the ninth when he surrendered a homer to Jesus Guzman. The right-hander allowed six hits, struck out four and walked two.

Upton hit a solo homer and drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. In his last seven games, Upton is 15 for 26 with three homers and 13 RBIs.

Dodgers 3, Rockies 1

At Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw outpitched Jhoulys Chacin with 6 2-3 gritty innings to win his fourth straight start and Matt Kemp(notes) drove in two runs in Los Angeles' fourth consecutive victory.

Kershaw (12-4) threw a career-high 125 pitches, allowing two runs and eight hits and striking out six. The left-hander is 7-0 with a 1.65 ERA in his last 10 starts at Dodger Stadium, where he hasn't lost since April 16.

Yankees 4, Mariners 1

At New York, the Seattle Mariners flailed away helplessly against CC Sabathia in their 17th straight loss, managing only one hit and striking out 18 times overall in a 4-1 loss to the New York Yankees on a rain-soaked Tuesday night.

Sabathia (15-5) did not allow a baserunner until Brendan Ryan singled with one out in the seventh inning in beating Seattle for the seventh consecutive start. He struck out 14 of the 25 batters he faced, seven in a row at one point.

The Mariners are four shy of matching the Baltimore Orioles' American League-record 21-game losing streak to start the 1988 season. The 1961 Phillies dropped 23 straight for the modern major league mark.

Twins 9, Rangers 8

At Arlington, Joe Mauer drove in the go-ahead run with a pinch hit double off closer Neftali Feliz in a two-run ninth and Minnesota bounced back from Monday night's 20-6 rout by the Rangers.

The Twins trailed 8-7 when they put runners on second and third off Feliz (0-2) on Delmon Young's single and Jim Thome's pinch double.

Tsuyoshi Nishioka hit a grounder to shortstop Elvis Andrus, who fumbled the ball for an error as Young scored to tie it at 8.

Orioles 12, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, J.J. Hardy homered twice, Derrek Lee and Nolan Reimold also connected and the Orioles beat the Blue Jays.

It was the first multihomer game of the season for Hardy and the fifth of his career. He went 2 for 5 with four RBIs.

Lee went 4 for 5 with five RBIs. Baltimore finished with 16 hits, with every member of the starting lineup collecting at least one.

Angels 2, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Jered Weaver earned his eighth straight win as Mark Trumbo doubled home two runs and the Angels defeated the Indians.

Weaver (14-4) gave up one run over seven innings—a home run by Matt LaPorta in the seventh—and lowered his ERA to 1.79, best in the majors. In going 8-0 in 12 starts since May 23, he has a 1.27 ERA over 92 1-3 innings.

Red Sox 13, Royals 9

At Boston, David Ortiz had four hits and five RBIs, and Dustin Pedroia had four of Boston's 16 hits to lead the Red Sox to a victory over the Royals, their 18th win in 22 games.

Hours after the teams took a 1-1 pitcher's duel into the 14th inning and finished up at 1:59 a.m., they combined for 31 hits and 22 runs against nine pitchers—including Royals outfielder Mitch Maier, who threw a scoreless inning.

Alfredo Aceves (6-1) threw 3 1-3 scoreless innings in relief to improve to 20-2 in his career. Nathan Adcock (1-1) got just one out for the Royals, allowing three earned runs, three hits and three walks.

Tigers 5, White Sox 4

At Chicago, Justin Verlander got his 14th win and Wilson Betemit had a two-out, go-ahead single in the eighth inning as the Tigers beat the White Sox and increased their lead in the AL Central.

Verlander (14-5), beaten by the White Sox 11 days ago in Detroit, allowed four runs and seven hits in eight innings, including two-run homers to Adam Dunn in the first and Paul Konerko in the sixth. Verlander, who threw 125 pitches, came back to strike out Konerko and Dunn with a runner on in the eighth.

Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his 27th save in as many chances.

Athletics 6, Rays 1

At Oakland, Cliff Pennington had three hits to remain the hottest hitter in the major leagues since the All-Star break, Brandon McCarthy pitched eight innings and the Athletics beat the Rays.

Conor Jackson went 3 for 4 and Hideki Matsui added an RBI double as Oakland won for the third time in four games. The A's are 7-4 since the break.

Phelps sees potential in 200 free loss at Worlds

SHANGHAI (AP)—Reality smacked Michael Phelps in the face again, only this time he accepted it. The 14-time Olympic champion didn't like losing the 200-meter freestyle at the world championships again, even if it was to good pal Ryan Lochte.

But Phelps knows he's got more in him and unlike two years ago, he's willing to put in the work to get there.

Phelps led through the first 100 meters of the most eagerly awaited race so far in Shanghai before Lochte took over on the final turn and held on to win in 1 minute, 44.44 seconds Tuesday.

Phelps settled for silver at 1:44.79, and Paul Biedermann of Germany - who dealt Phelps a stunning defeat at worlds in 2009 - took the bronze at 1:44.88.

"Being able to be a second faster than I was last year and about a second and a half off my personal best time, that's all I can really ask for right now," Phelps said. "That's all I had in the tank."

Phelps has only been in serious training for eight months, having finally committed to making a run at his fourth and last Olympics next year in London.

"That time won't win a gold medal next summer," he said. "I know I can go faster than that."

The Americans' 1-2 finish in the 200 free kicked off a big night for the United States. Rebecca Soni led all the way in winning the 100 breaststroke by 1.20 seconds; Kate Ziegler earned silver in the 1,500 freestyle; and Natalie Coughlin took bronze in the 100 backstroke, giving the Americans nine medals through the first three days of swimming.

Two years ago in Rome, Phelps made an unhappy trip to the second spot on the medals podium, having lost the 200 free and his world record to Biedermann, who was wearing one of the now-banned high-tech bodysuits.

"In '09, I was still trying to ride what had happened in '08 even though I had taken six months off," he said. "Right now I know that doing that is not the best thing for swimming. I'm in a better state of mind now than I was in then and really probably better than I ever have been. I'm happy to be back in the water again."

Phelps' coach, Bob Bowman, said, "The year I've had, I'm very happy with that."

While Phelps spent a chunk of late 2009 and early 2010 blowing off practice and perfecting his golf game, Lochte was busy gaining on him. Last August, he beat Phelps twice at U.S. nationals and then won six golds to Phelps' five at the Pan Pacific championships.

"I'm definitely a completely different swimmer than I was in 2008," said Lochte, who won four medals at the Beijing Games. "I'm definitely stronger and smarter."

In 2009, Biedermann beat Phelps by more than a second in the 200 free. The German admitted after that race that his high-tech was partly responsible for the upset.

"Is it great to beat somebody who beat you?" Phelps said. "Yeah, it is."

Free-agent frenzy: Wild times in NFL

NEW YORK (AP)-- The free agency free-for-all has begun, mostly with obscure names from the college ranks. It will get wilder. Contract negotiations for free agents and draft picks started Tuesday, with draftees able to sign right away. The big names among veterans - Nnamdi Asomugha, Santonio Holmes, Matt Hasselbeck - can't sign until Thursday, but their agents are negotiating deals right now.

Throw in dozens of players who will be cut, such as Dallas receiver Roy Williams and Baltimore tight end Todd Heap, which officially can't happen until Thursday, and it's "organized chaos," according to Colts general manager Chris Polian.

"It's a lot of stress, work, preparation. But it's what we all look forward to. It's our playoffs and our Super Bowl," agent Peter Schaffer said.

Indeed, several agents said they didn't expect to sleep Tuesday as the NFL reopened for business after 4 1/2 months. In addition to their clients already in the league who are unrestricted or restricted free agents, they will have veterans released. And they are trying to set up youngsters, such as college starters safety Winston Venable of Boise State (Chicago) and quarterback Jerrod Johnson of Texas A&M (Philadelphia), with teams after they were passed over in April's draft.

"I always have a lot of guys in that category, and it's been absolutely nuts," said agent Joe Linta, who placed Michigan State tight end Charlie Gantt with the Chiefs and Cal receiver Jeremy Ross with the Patriots on Tuesday. He also fielded calls from a dozen teams for Utah defensive tackle Sealver Siliga before he signed with San Francisco.

"There are times when you are fielding four or five calls at once," added Linta. "Multiply, say, 10 guys you are trying to get signed by maybe three to 10 teams interested ... you do the math."

The math adds up to hundreds of transactions in a few days, as opposed to a few weeks had there not been a 4 1/2-month labor stoppage.

"I think the best way to say it is whatever you can imagine, it's probably worse than that," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "There is multitasking at its most furious."

Normally, teams would bring in players to visit their facilities, have them work out and take physicals, perhaps even attend meetings and speak with potential future teammates. Some of that might happen in the next few days, particularly for a high-profile player such as Asomugha. Most of it won't.

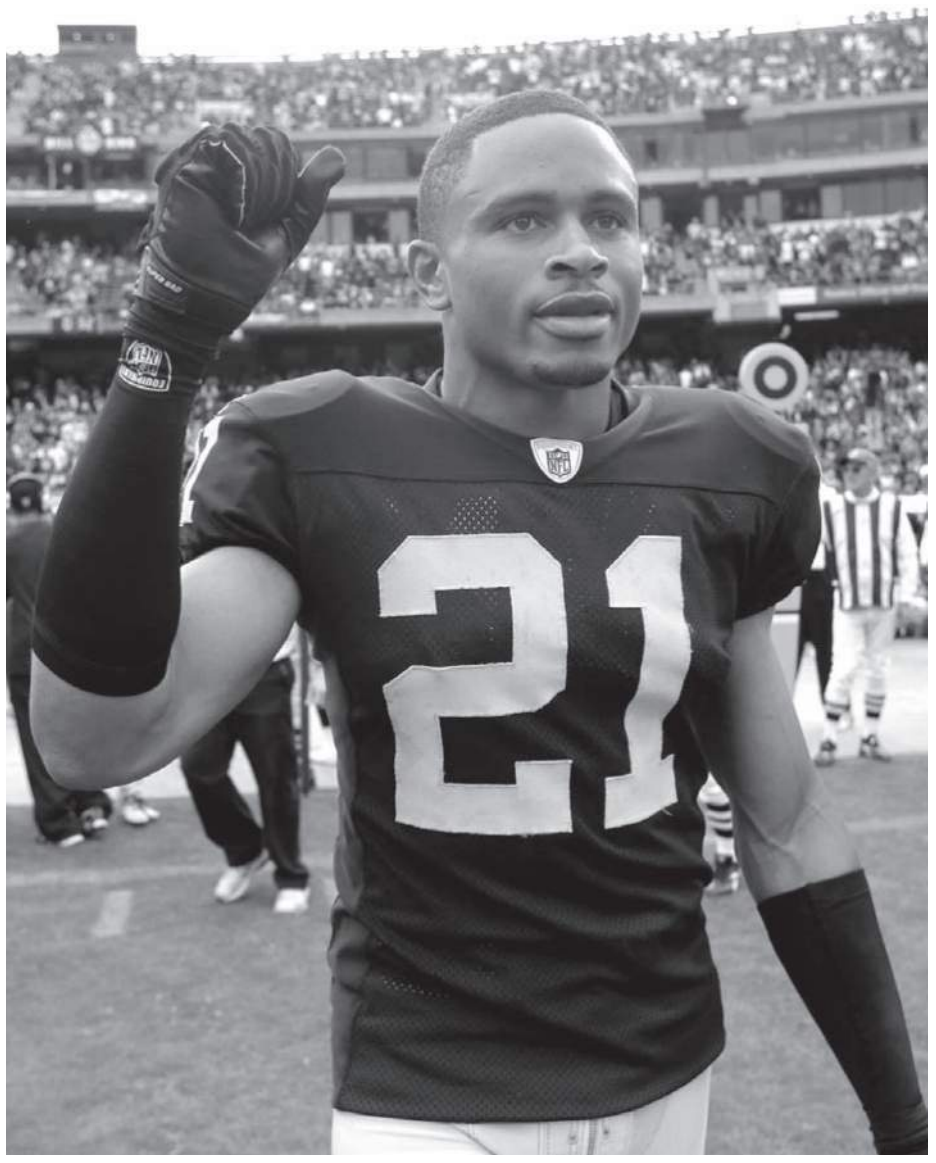
"I think all of the guys realize this is going to be a whole new world," agent Jordan Woy said. "Most said, 'Listen, the bottom line is the team I'm with I like. If somebody out there is really interested, if they come with a great offer up front, then we'll look into that.'

"They realize they're going to have to make quicker, probably less-informed decisions than they have in the past. They're just going to have to do best they can."

So are the teams. Sure, all 32 clubs have had more than enough extra time to watch video and dissect the games of every free agent on the market. Maybe that's not such a great think; overanalysis has destroyed the chances of many an NFL team through the years.

And now there's the added element of all those vets being released.

"In this climate, anything's possible," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh, whose team will release Heap, receiver Derrick Mason and running back Willis McGahee.



AP

This Sept. 19, 2010, file photo shows Oakland Raiders cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha (21) at an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif.

"You may have an opportunity to bring some of those guys back. You may not. It just depends on how things shake out the next couple of days."

What also might shake out: shorter contracts. Teams might not be comfortable with long-term deals (the five- and six-year varieties) in this post-lockout climate. The big bucks could be there, but not for as many seasons.

"Being a free agent in 2011 doesn't necessarily mean that those players will all sign lucrative long-term deals," said agent Ben Dogra, who represents soon-to-be former Cowboy Williams. "You will see more short-term deals than ever before. Agents will have to project into free agency of 2012 as much as this year."

Meanwhile, after a lockout that lasted 4 1/2 months ended Monday with an agreement between the NFL and its players, teams' facilities were buzzing with activity Tuesday.

During the lockout, the Tennessee Titans had a chain around their closed front gate to keep players out. That chain was gone and the front gate wide open as rookie quarterback Jake Locker, the No. 8 pick overall in April, and quarterbacks Rusty Smith and Brett Ratliff were among the first to arrive.

"It is nice to drive by and not have the lock on the gate and actually get a friendly smile when you come in here," left tackle Michael Roos said.

Players all around the league were allowed back in to meet with coaches, work out, take physicals and receive playbooks - among other things.

"I came for the free lunch," quipped Washington Redskins receiver Anthony Armstrong.

Teams were already starting a feeding frenzy on their drafted players and undrafted free agents, and were allowed to start negotiating with free agents in what will likely be a flurry of activity the league has never seen. Players such as Nnamdi Asomugha and Santonio Holmes will soon find out where they're going - or staying - as free agency began.

"With this whole free agency opening up, it's going to be crazy," Redskins quarterback John Beck said at the team's facility in Ashburn, Va. "Our team's going to look different."

Washington has several free agents to address this summer, including Santana Moss, Rex Grossman, Carlos Rogers and Rocky McIntosh. Oh, and there's also the murky statuses of Donovan McNabb and Albert Haynesworth to deal with.

The Jets and general manager Mike Tannenbaum have 16 players who are unrestricted free agents, including Holmes, Braylon Edwards, Antonio Cromartie and Brad Smith.

"It would be interesting just to get a camera in (Tannenbaum's office) and see how crazy it could be," center Nick Mangold said.

Teams were also greeting players by saying goodbye, at least for now.

The New York Giants have told center and player representative Shaun O'Hara and guard Rich Seubert that they will be released. A source close to each veteran told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the team told the players they would be cut on Thursday in what are salary-cap moves.

At Cowboys' camp in Irving, Texas, Dallas was set to release several high-priced players, including running back Marion Barber, receiver Roy Williams, right guard Leonard Davis and kicker Kris Brown - according to multiple people familiar with the decisions who told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not made any announcements.

Source: Tarvaris Jackson in as Seahawks q'back

RENTON, Wash. (AP) -- Tarvaris Jackson is in as the Seattle Seahawks next quarterback and Matt Hasselbeck is reportedly looking elsewhere.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press Tuesday that Jackson has agreed to terms with the Seahawks and is expected to sign a contract Friday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because free agents aren't allowed to sign contracts until Friday.

The Seattle Times first reported Jackson's agreement.

Reports surfaced Tuesday afternoon that the Seahawks told Hasselbeck he was no longer in their future plans. Yahoo! Sports first reported the Hasselbeck decision on Twitter. Hasselbeck and his agent did not return messages left by the AP.

The decision to move on from Hasselbeck contradicted Seattle coach Pete Carroll's pronouncement in January that re-signing Hasselbeck was Seattle's No. 1 priority. The two sides could not reach an agreement before the NFL lockout.

Hasselbeck spent the past 10 seasons in Seattle and for much of that time was the face of the franchise. He took the Seahawks to their only Super Bowl appearance and captained Seattle to five division titles. He leaves as the team's all-time leader in numerous passing categories.

But the signs that Hasselbeck's time in Seattle could be coming to a close started a year ago when the team acquired Charlie Whitehurst from San Diego. Whitehurst was supposed to challenge Hasselbeck for the job before the 2010 season, but his only two starts last season came in games Hasselbeck was injured. One of those starts was the season finale when Seattle beat St. Louis 16-6 to wrap up the NFC West title with a 7-9 record.

Hasselbeck then seemed to affirm his importance to the franchise by leading Seattle to a stunning NFC first-round playoff upset of New Orleans before the Seahawks lost to Chicago in the NFC divisional playoff. After that loss, Carroll said the Seahawks' No. 1 priority was re-signing Hasselbeck.

But it won't be Hasselbeck back under center when the season begins on Sept. 11 at San Francisco.

Whitehurst was one of the first Seahawks to arrive at their training facility on Tuesday morning after catching a late flight back to the Northwest and not getting to his apartment until about 1 a.m. Still, he was driving through the gates of Seahawks headquarters shortly after 8 a.m. ready to pick up his playbook.

"You're more experienced; it goes for all of us. There were a bunch of new guys this past season," Whitehurst said. "I think everybody is probably feeling pretty confident about this season."

Instead of Whitehurst battling Hasselbeck for the starting job, it'll be Jackson. Later in the day, after learning the reports of Hasselbeck's departure, Whitehurst seemed to realize his chance.

"It's as good an opportunity as I'm going to get and I'm looking forward to it," he said.

In Minneapolis, Jackson was ushered aside most of the last two seasons in favor of Brett Favre. Now he'll get a fresh start in Seattle and be reunited with offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, who is in charge of revamping Seattle's passing game. Bevell spent the previous five seasons as Minnesota's offensive coordinator.

Rust might be a problem for Jackson. He's played in just 11 games and started only once the past two seasons after making 17 starts during the 2007 and `08 seasons.

Hasselbeck had been instrumental in organizing offseason workouts for players in the Seattle area and working with the University of Washington on using their facilities. Some players had been extremely outspoken on Twitter in urging the Seahawks to re-sign the veteran QB.

"Gotta say thanks for giving me a chance to get my career rolling," Seahawks receiver Mike Williams wrote to Hasselbeck on Twitter Tuesday afternoon. "U'll always Rep the 12th, see u in the Ring of Honor sir."

Rich Moran, the agent for Seahawks offensive lineman Stacy Andrews, confirmed Tuesday his client has been informed he will be released. Andrews was scheduled to make $5.25 million this season, but was likely to be a backup after Seattle drafted linemen James Carpenter and John Moffitt.

The Seahawks also agreed to terms with 19 undrafted free agents on Tuesday. Highlighting the list was Boise State safety Jeron Johnson, Nebraska safety Rickey Thenarse and Nebraska defensive end Pierre Allen.

Businessman to work on Manila fight for Pacquiao

MANILA— Businessman-sportsman Manny V. Pangilinan, fresh from a successful hosting of once-in-a-lifetime hoop extravaganza, is now plotting yet another major event—this time in boxing.

The Smart/PLDT chief wants to host a Manny Pacquiao title fight here.

"This is something the people will really like," said Pangilinan.

Pangilinan recently staged the Smart Ultimate All-Star Weekend featuring Kobe Bryant, Derrick Rose, Chris Paul, Kevin Durant and other NBA standouts playing against a PBA selection and the Smart Gilas Pilipinas national team last Saturday and Sunday.

It was, perhaps, the grandest hoop bash ever in the country and the goodwill and public appreciation it generated may have convinced the telecommunications tycoon to pursue another major sporting endeavor.

Pangilinan told the Inquirer on Sunday that his immediate goal is to stage a title defense by the Filipino ring icon against a worthy opponent sometime next year.

Pangilinan said he broached the idea to Pacquiao when the world's acknowledged pound-for-pound king dropped by in the last quarter of the NBA selection vs Smart Gilas match, adding Pacquiao's response was positive.

"I talked about this with Manny and he was very receptive," he said.

Pangilinan added he was thinking of a possible blockbuster title showdown against Floyd Mayweather Jr. Although with "Pretty Boy" constantly dodging Pacquiao, Pangilinan would be willing to go with other possible opponents, provided they would be competitive.

Among those mentioned was undefeated WBC/WBO light welterweight champion Timothy Bradley, who has a record of 27-0 with 11 knockouts.

Even the name of current WBA and newly crowned IBF light welterweight champion Amir Khan cropped up, but Khan has said he won't fight Pacquiao, his friend and training partner.

"I'm sure Mr. Pangilinan can pay the money but is he going to be able to recoup it? Besides, it's very doubtful whether Mayweather will agree to fight Manny in Manila although I guess there's still a chance," said Michael Koncz, Pacquiao's adviser . ***(PDI)***

WONG

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Rome, but timed in at 2:14.96, falling .48 of a second short of surpassing the then CNMI mark, which he recorded on May 30, 2009 during a tournament in Guam. Out of the four individual events Wong joined in, it was only in the 200m IM, one of his favorites, that the University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer failed to record either a personal best time or a CNMI mark.

Two years later, Wong is back for his third World Championships and this time he made sure he won't miss the Commonwealth record.

Wong was on Heat 1 of the 200m IM qualifying race and finished sixth out of eight swimmers in the field. He started strong in the qualifying heat, clocking in at 28.01 seconds in the first 50m (butterfly) of the race before slowing down in the next 50m (backstroke), submitting 33.95 seconds. Wong's slowest pace came in the 50m breaststroke (37.20 seconds), but he went all out in the last 50m (freestyle), logging 31.02 seconds.

The 20-year-old swimmer's 2:10.18 time also surpassed his qualifying time (2:11.81/University of Hawaii-Manoa), moving Wong less than two seconds away from making the U.S. national cut (2:08.59).

Brazil's Thiago Pereira submitted the fastest qualifying heat time in the 200m IM at 1:57.82 to lead 15 others to the next round of the race. Pereira's time was about two seconds faster that favorite Ryan Lochte (1:59.04) of the U.S.

Meanwhile, Wong will complete his World Championships stint via the 200m breaststroke race today. The CNMI swimmer will be on Heat 2 of the eight qualifying races that will start at 9am.

Wong, who will be on Lane 2, holds a qualifying time of 2:26.83, which is also the CNMI record the UH-Hawaii posted on July 30, 2009, in Rome.

Also competing in a qualifying heat today is Grace Kimball, who will be making her World Championships debut. She will be on Heat 2 of the 100m freestyle preliminary race.

FUTSAL

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tallied one goal in the second half. Mellow Yellow was credited with an own goal in the second half.

Shirley's A 9, Mellow Yellow 2

Mellow Yellow suffered a double blackeye on Monday night, as its women's team bowed to Shirley's A, 5-9.

Jeraldine Castillo had a hat-trick for Shirley's A, while Irish Pagarao and Melody Johnson recorded two goals apiece. Shirley's A also drew one goal each from Angie Ito and Marilou Gariguez.

Merlie Tolentino scored for Mellow Yellow in the first half, while the team's other goal came from Melanie Santos in the second half.

IT&E Men 5, Thundercats 4

In the second men's game, IT&E defeated Thundercats, 5-4.

Seoung Joon Lee led IT&E's second win, as he carded three goals. Kirk Schuler and Greg Kim added one goal apiece for IT&E.

Li Zhi Peng and Eric Devin Atalig tallied one goal each for Thundercats in the first half where IT&E led, 4-2. Peng scored anew in the second half and Evert Van Der Maas also hit one goal to tie the game before Schuler made the winning-goal for IT&E.

Red Team 6, IT&E Blossom 1

In the last women's game of the night, Red Team recovered big time from its debut loss, clobbering IT&E Blossom, 6-1.

Patty Coleman, who didn't play in Red Team's 1-15 loss to Shirley's in Week 1, had two goals in her first game. Amber Roberts also nailed a pair of goals for Red Team, which got one goal apiece from Temary Gramlich and Jeane Bracken.

IT&E Blossom's lone goal was courtesy of Clarice Mendoza.

TUESDAY
Go Green 3, Docomo 3

In the only men's game played last Tuesday night, Go Green and Docomo had a 3-3 draw.

Fradel Sedillo posted twin goals for Go Green, while Panapa Peteru had one. Sedillo and Peteru scored in the first half for a 2-1 lead. Steve McKagan put Docomo in the scoreboard in the first half.

Docomo then added two more goals in the second half, one apiece from McKagan and Ropati Tonuu, while Sedillo logged his second for the deadlock.

The other men's match between Red Inter and Mellow Yellow was forfeited in favor of the former.

Shirley's A 6, IT&E Awesome 3

In women's division, Shirley's A grabbed a share of the lead with its sister team, Shirley's B, after a 6-3 triumph over IT&E Awesome.

Irish Pagarao scored all the goals for Shirley's A, as she toyed around the defense of IT&E Awesome in the second half.

Neither team scored in the first half and IT&E Awesome fell short on its bid for a second win when it registered only three goals in the final frame. Nola Hix, Natalie Hill, and Carrie Schuler had one goal apiece for IT&E Awesome.

OVER

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U.S. from Delta Airlines, and $25,000 from Bank of Hawaii.

In addition, two $1,000 closest-to-the-pin cash prizes will also be up for grabs and a multitude of prizes will be raffled off throughout Sunday's awards banquet, including one year of free golf at Laolao Bay.

First time competitor, Geon Ju Lee of Korea, won the Championship flight last year with an even score of 144 in the 36-hole event. Saipan's Leina D. Kim topped the Ladies' field by six strokes with a low gross of 149; Xian Lai Cui took the A flight honors with a 154 series; B Flight's Young Woo Lee beat Prescil D. Azarcon in a tie-breaker after after their identical scores of 160; Eun Sam Cui's 163 won him the C Flight by four strokes; NMASA Hall of Famer Tony Satur topped the Senior flight by three strokes with a 153; and Duke Yoo's 162 stole the Super Senior flight from Bill Garris (163) after they were knotted in a three-way tie with Jesus. M. Taitano (67) heading into the final round.

Ladies' Young Hee Yoo of Korea took the low net honors with a 145.8 over Sun Park (146) and Sherlyn Jones (146.4). Last year's tournament drew 240 players.

Proceeds from this year's TOC will go to the Saipan Beautification Program to help assist in the repair of the Mt. Topochau stairways and railings and leveling of the area.

In the past, TOC proceeds have gone towards improving the tree-lined traffic medians in Chalan Piao, Dandan, and Susupe. Funds were also used for the revitalization of the Garapan special district, Paseo De Marianas and the Prot to Park Pathway. Over the past 15 years, TOC has given over $500,000 to the program.

For more information or to register, call Marida Pensader at 236-2530 or Rose Wanket at 236-2511 or visit www.tocsaipan.com.

TENORIO

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tion so we can all share ideas that will help improve the league," he added.

The former SLLBI president also commented on the leadership issues that hit the league a few months before the 2011 season closed.

"I think it's sad that people in charge know nothing about the proper operating procedures that official Little League program leaders are required to follow," Tenorio said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He added he was disappointed that the first elected front man, Robert Guerrero, stepped down just a month after accepting the position. Guerrero served as chief umpire of the league. Tenorio was again displeased after discovering how acting president Annie Flores was given the reins.

"After Guerrero left, the board got together and elected Flores without asking any of the parents on their thoughts about the subject. A big move like that should be considered an internal issue," said Tenorio.

Others agreed with Tenorio's line of thinking, as parents held their own meeting soon after Flores' designation and voted for Tony Rogolifoi. But with the leadership crisis Rogolifoi decided to step away from the issue to avoid further disruption of the league, while Flores assumed control in the organization.

Now that the 2011 season is over, Tenorio is anticipating changes next year, including acquiring high-level coaches to help beef up the current volunteers.

"We need better coaches to help prepare and bring up current volunteers' level of expertise to the mainland's Little League standard," Tenorio said.

He also mentioned unifying all local softball and baseball groups into one non-profit organization that will seek membership to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association and figuring out a way to pay volunteer umpires in hopes of promoting a higher-level performance and preserving the overall reputation of the league.

"Sometimes managers from other teams or volunteer spectators are umpiring and that really should never happen. The Saipan Major League umpires get paid to call games and I think Saipan Little League should be able to cover such a cost just like most Little League programs do," he said.

In related news, Flores is still working out the budget for the 2011 season awards ceremony, but plans on holding the event some time before the 2012 election.

"We are shooting for October 8 for the election and I assure the public that they will be provided with at least two weeks notice. The trophies will be awarded before the election," Flores said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The awards ceremony will be held at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfields.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Major All-Stars would like to thank more individuals and companies for supporting their bid in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament.

"In addition to the long list of supporters who were recently recognized, I would also like to thank Janet Maratita, Department of Health Diabetes Program, Joe and Evelyn Borja, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Mr. and Mrs. Luis Camacho, Marianas Printing, and Larry Lizama of Guam," said Dave Cepeda, father of one of the CNMI players.

Cepeda also noted that assistant coach and Rep. George Camacho and the House leadership privately donated $1,200 as a group, not $12,000, as earlier reported. He then reiterated that when he went on record to speak out against the mismanagement within the SLLBI board, he did it not necessarily with the intent of obtaining a board position.

"I didn't speak out because I want to be an officer. I will be at that election whenever it takes place and I'm going to try and get as many parents as I can to come together and get involved," Cepeda said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	63	38	.624	–
New York	61	40	.604	2
Tampa Bay	53	49	.520	10 1/2
Toronto	51	52	.495	13
Baltimore	41	58	.414	21

Central Division

Detroit	55	48	.534	–
Cleveland	52	49	.515	2
Chicago	50	52	.490	4 1/2
Minnesota	48	55	.466	7
Kansas City	43	60	.417	12

West Division

Texas	59	45	.567	–
Los Angeles	56	48	.538	3
Oakland	46	57	.447	12 1/2
Seattle	43	60	.417	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	65	37	.637	–
Atlanta	60	44	.577	6
New York	52	51	.505	13 1/2
Florida	50	53	.485	15 1/2
Washington	49	53	.480	16

Central Division

St. Louis	55	48	.534	–
Milwaukee	55	49	.529	1/2
Pittsburgh	53	48	.525	1
Cincinnati	50	53	.485	5
Chicago	42	61	.408	13
Houston	33	70	.320	22

West Division

San Francisco	59	44	.573	–
Arizona	56	47	.544	3
Colorado	48	56	.462	11 1/2
Los Angeles	47	56	.456	12
San Diego	45	59	.433	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

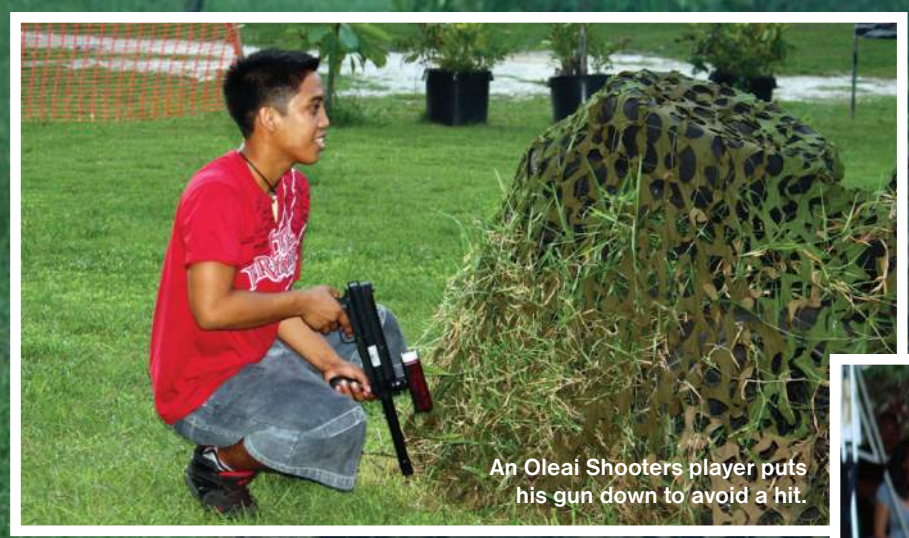
Atlanta 4, Pittsburgh 3
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 2
NY Mets 8, Cincinnati 6
Florida 11, Washington 2
Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 2
St. Louis 3, Houston 1
Arizona 6, San Diego 1
LA Dodgers 3, Colorado 1
NY Yankees 4, Seattle 1
Minnesota 9, Texas 8
Baltimore 12, Toronto 4
LA Angels 2, Cleveland 1
Boston 13, Kansas City 9
Detroit 5, Chi Sox 4
Oakland 6, Tampa Bay 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

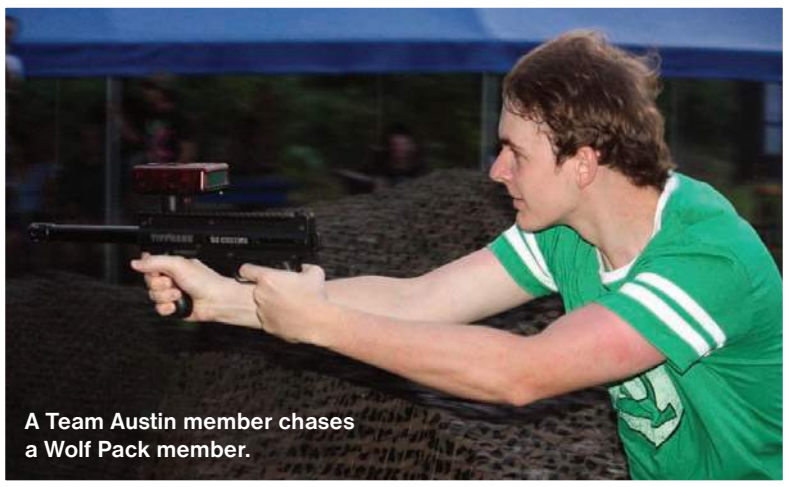
Pacific Islands Club Laser Tag Tournament

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

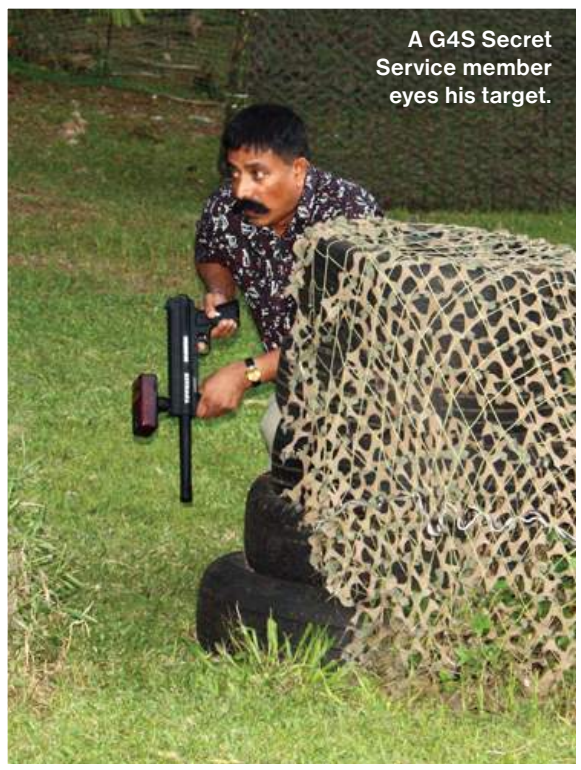
The Wild Dogs' Matt Iguel keeps his eyes on his foe while trying to move out of the bunker.


An Oleai Shooters player puts his gun down to avoid a hit.

A member of Rambo's Commandoes hides in a make-shift bunker during the pool play in the Pacific Islands Club Laser Tag Tournament last Saturday at the PIC Laser Tag Park.


A Team Austin member chases a Wolf Pack member.

A G4S Secret Service member checks on her gun.


A G4S Secret Service member eyes his target.

Wolf Pack's Glenn Policare fires at a foe.

A G4S Security Service member fires at his target.

Wolf Pack's Dennis Tababa gets out of the bunker after he was shot.

Wolf Pack's Mayuki Kebukawa stays in a bunker while checking on her target.

Braves survive Pirates in 19 innings

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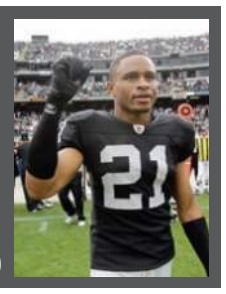
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Free-agent frenzy: Wild times in NFL



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Wong crushes CNMI mark in 200m IM

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here in a local race in 2009, broke the CNMI record in the 200m individual medley after competing in a qualifying heat in the 14th FINA World Championships yesterday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

What Rezne Wong failed to accomplish in Italy he did in China.

Wong shattered the CNMI record in the 200m individual medley after racing in a qualifying heat in the 14th FINA World Championships yesterday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center.

The CNMI swimmer completed the 200m IM in two minutes and 10.18 seconds, breaking the Commonwealth national mark (2:14.48) by more than four seconds and redeeming himself from a frustrating finish in the same race two years ago.

In 2009, Wong swam in the 200m IM at the World Championships in

See WONG on Page 26

4 futsal teams keep unbeaten records

Go Green's Panapa Peteru kicks the ball during their game against Korean Futsal Team in Week 1 of the Saipan Soccer School men's futsal league at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League had its Week 2 games at the TSL Sports Complex with four teams winning over separate foes to remain undefeated in the competition.

In Tuesday's opening match in the women's division, Shirley's B edged Thai Team, 3-2, to improve to a 3-0 record. Thai Team dropped to a 0-2 mark.

Marie Javier and Ira Palero had one goal apiece for Shirley's B in the first half to give their team a 2-1 lead. Pratoom Stoffer scored Thai Team's lone goal in the first half and Catherine Perry made one in the second half to equalize. However, Mikky Vargas also lit up the scoreboard for Shirley's B in the final frame for the team's third victory in as many games.

Also maintaining a clean record in the women's division is Shirley's A (3-0), while men's division's Wild Bill's and IT&E Men are both unbeaten after two games each.

MONDAY
Wild Bill's 5, Mellow Yellow 3

In the first match in the men's division, Wild Bill's topped Mellow Yellow, 5-3.

Jeeraphong Thoensaket was unstoppable for Wild Bill's as he drilled four of the team's five goals, hitting two apiece in the first and second half. Jiayuan Guao logged Wild Bill's other goal, finding the back of the net in the first half for the squad's 3-1 lead.

Suriya Mongkhonat put Mellow Yellow in the scoreboard in the first half, while Woo Ho Jin

See FUTSAL on Page 26

Over 200 golfers expected at TOC

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

More than 200 participants are expected for the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions, which will be held on Aug. 6 and 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Registration is set at $175 for the two-day tournament. Showtime is at 6am, while shotgun start is at 7am.

First place winners in the Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $600 cash, $500 for second, $400 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and a $100 Duty Free Shops gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies' low-gross champion will receive $600, $500 for second and $400 for third place. The Top 3 Ladies low-net finishers will all be awarded trophies.

Besides the cash awards for flight winners, a brand new 2011 blue Ford Fiesta from eight-time gold sponsors Joeten Motors and the Joeten Charitable Fund is at stake as hole-in-one prize on the par-3 No. 16. Other hole-in-one prizes include $50,000 from AON insurance, a 2011 Mazda 3 from Triple J Motors, two business class tickets to anywhere in

See OVER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ben Duenas gauges his shot during a tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, which will be the venue for next week's 16th Annual Tournament of Champions.

Tenorio wants to return to Saipan Little League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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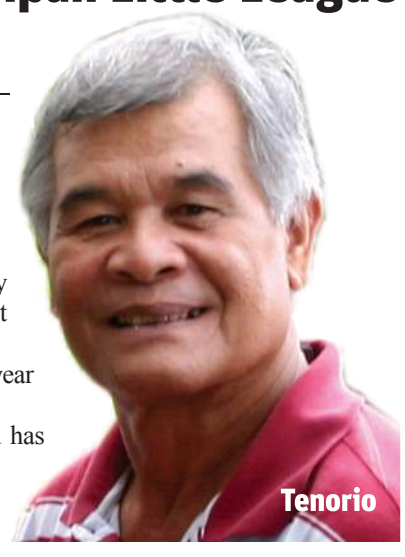
REPORTER



Tenorio

Former Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. president Juan I. Tenorio wants to serve anew in the SLLBI and is calling the program's supporters to attend the election in preparation for the 2012 season.

"I want to get involved with the program, but it's not really about being president," said Tenorio, who expressed an interest in running for a board position with the SLLBI.

The Saipan Little League will have its election on Oct. 8 this year at the pavilion adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tenorio was the league's president from 2006 to 2008 and has been involved with the program since 2003.

"I hope at least 40 people show interest in the coming elec-

See TENORIO on Page 26